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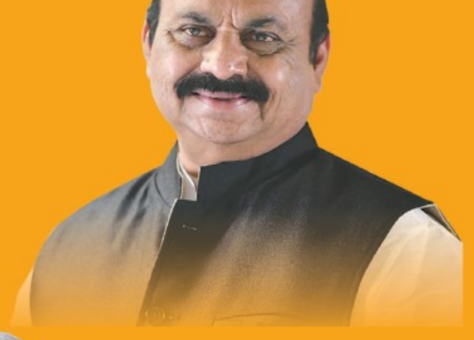
ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ

ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸುಳ್ಳಿನ ಕಂತೆಯ ಅನಾವರಣ

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಜನತಾ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಬದ್ಧತೆಯ ಸತ್ಯದರ್ಶನ



ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲೂ ಇಚ್ಛಾಶಕ್ತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬದ್ಧತೆಯನ್ನು ಮೆರೆದ ಪಕ್ಷ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ

- ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಕಣಿವೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1980ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 30 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರಿನ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಯೋಜನೆಯೊಂದನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿತ್ತು.
- 16.03.1989ರಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಂದಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಆರ್. ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿರವರು ಗೋವಾ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದರು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಗೋವಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿತ್ತು.
- 09.10.2006ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮ್ಮಿಶ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯೇತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು ಭಾರತೀಯ ಜನತಾ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸಾಧನೆ.

- 2006ರಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋವಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರ್ವೋಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾವೆ ಹೂಡಿ ಕಳಸಾ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಾಲುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದರೂ ಸಹ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಇಚ್ಛಾಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿ ತಡೆಯಾಜ್ಞೆ ದೊರೆಯದಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡಿತು.
- ಗೋವಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಪರಿಸರ ತೀರುವಳಿ ನೆಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅನೇಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಾಲುವೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ತಡೆ ಒಡ್ಡಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಇದ್ಯಾವುದನ್ನೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕಿಸದೆ ಅಂದಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್. ಯಡಿಯೂರಪ್ಪ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಚಿವ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿರವರು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಗೆ ಸಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಿದರು.
- 2014ರಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧಿಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧಿಕರಣದ ವರದಿಯು ನಿಗದಿತ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸಿತು.
- ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಕಣಿವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 200 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಗೋವಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನೀರಿನ ಲಭ್ಯತೆ ಅತೀ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿತು. ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧದ ನಡುವೆಯು ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೀಡಿದ ವರದಿಯನ್ನಾಧರಿಸಿ ನೀರಿನ ಲಭ್ಯತೆ 188 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಇದೆಯೆಂದು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧಿಕರಣವು ತೀರ್ಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕೃತಗೊಳಿಸಿತು. ಇದು ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾಳಜಿಯನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 2018ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹದಾಯಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧಿಕರಣದ ಅಂತಿಮ ತೀರ್ಪು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾಯಿತು. 2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿತು. ಸತತ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂದಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್. ಯಡಿಯೂರಪ್ಪನವರ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಮುತ್ಸದಿತನದ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಫಲವಾಗಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಐ-ತೀರ್ಪಿನ ಗೆಜೆಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೊಳಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಇತಿಹಾಸ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಇದು ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಜನತಾ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಹತ್ತರ ಸಾಧನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಡುಗೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಗೆಜೆಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಳಂಬ ಮಾಡದೇ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಜನತಾ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 10.07.2020 ರಂದು ಕಳಸಾ ನಾಲಾ ತಿರುವು ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ರೂ.885.80 ಕೋಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬಂಡೂರಿ ನಾಲಾ ತಿರುವು ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ರೂ.791.50 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿ ತನ್ನ ಬದ್ಧತೆಯನ್ನು ತೋರಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾರ್ಯಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು (Pre-feasibility Report) ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ನವೆಂಬರ್ 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ತೀರುವಳಿ ಪಡೆಯುವಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನ ಬದ್ಧತೆಯನ್ನು ತೋರಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗದಿಂದ 29.12.2022ರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳಸಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಂಡೂರಿ ನಾಲಾ ತಿರುವು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ DPR (Lift Schemes) ಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ತೀರುವಳಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಲ್ಪ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಇಚ್ಛಾಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿದೆ.

ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಲು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕಟಿಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪದೇ ಪದೇ ಎಡವಟ್ಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯ ಬದ್ಧತೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ನೈತಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ.

- 2000ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಬಳಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು 7.56 ಟಿಎಂಸಿಗೆ ಕಡಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದು ಅಂದಿನ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ.
- 30.04.2002ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗದಿಂದ ಕಳಸಾ-ಬಂಡೂರಿ ತಿರುವು ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದೊರಕಿದರೂ ಸಹ, ಕೂಡಲೇ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ತೀರುವಳಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 5 ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಾಲಹರಣ ಮಾಡಿತು.
- 27-03-2007ರಂದು ಅಂದಿನ ಯುಪಿಎ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷೆ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸೋನಿಯಾ ಗಾಂಧಿರವರು ಗೋವಾ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹದಾಯಿ ಕಣಿವೆಯಿಂದ ಒಂದು ಹನಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಮಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದರು. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನಾಯಕರಿಗೆ ಇದನ್ನು ವಿರೋಧಿಸುವ ತಾಕತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.
- 2010ರಲ್ಲಿ ಯುಪಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯ ವಿರುದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ಮಹದಾಯಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧಿಕರಣ ರಚಿಸಿ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸದೇ, ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳಾವಕಾಶವನ್ನೂ ನೀಡದೇ ವಿವಾದ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥವಾಗಲು 2 ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಅವಧಿಯ ಕಾಲಹರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಯಿತು.
- 2017ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕಳಸಾ-ಬಂಡೂರಿ ಹೋರಾಟಗಾರರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣು-ಗಂಡು ಎಂದು ಲೆಕ್ಕಿಸದೆ ಲಾಠಿ ಪ್ರಹಾರ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಜನರು ಮರೆತಿಲ್ಲ.
- ಅಂದಿನ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ತಪ್ಪು ನಿಲುವಿನಿಂದಾಗಿ ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಾವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿದ್ದ ಮಹದಾಯಿ-ಮಲಪ್ರಭಾ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಾಲುವೆಗೆ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾಧನೆ.

ಬಿಜೆಪಿ-ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

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Putin orders ceasefire for 36 hours in Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday ordered Moscow's armed forces to hold a 36-hour ceasefire in Ukraine this weekend for the Russian Orthodox Christmas holiday, the Kremlin said.

The order follows a proposal by the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, earlier in the day, which was dismissed by an official in the Ukrainian presidential office as propaganda. "Based on the fact that a large number of citizens professing Orthodoxy live in the combat areas, we call on the Ukrainian side to declare a ceasefire and give them the opportunity to attend services on Christmas Eve, as well as on the Day of the Nativity of Christ," according to Mr. Putin's order.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

SC thwarts eviction from Railway land in Haldwani

Court says some of the residents have been living there for 50 to 70 years and cannot be uprooted overnight; suggests rehabilitation and denounces HC order allowing use of paramilitary for drive

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a December 20 direction of the Uttarakhand High Court to the Indian Railways and the district administration to use paramilitary forces to evict thousands of poor families occupying Railway land in Haldwani district within a week.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and A.S. Oka remarked that some of these people have been living on the land for 50 to 70 years and could not be evicted within a week.

Hitting the streets: Residents assemble in Haldwani, Uttarakhand on Thursday ahead of the Supreme Court order. PTI

'Human angle'

The court said the issue has a "human angle". Many proceedings under the Public Premises Act were instituted *ex parte* against the families during the COVID-19 pandemic. A balance had to be struck between the Railways' need to develop the land and the families' right to live with dignity. The rights of the families on the land had to be examined. Even those who have no rights, but have been living there for years, need to be rehabilitated.

"They cannot be uprooted overnight from the land... Somebody has to go into the need for rehabilitation while recognising the need of the Railways," Justice Kaul said.

"And it was not right to order bringing in paramilitary forces," Justice Oka remarked.

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Railways, said the land around the Kathgodam Railway Station could not be developed and there is a need to open the State to more rail traffic, with Haldwani the nearest location. The land belonged to the Indian Railways. She said the people had never claimed their right to rehabilitation. Instead, they had claimed right over the land itself.

Senior advocates Colin Gonsalves, Siddharth Luthra and Salman Khurshid, and advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the various affected families, said over 5,000 families were affected.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Decennial census put off till Sept. to freeze boundaries

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The decennial census exercise has been postponed till September, at least, as the government informed the States that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries has been extended till June 30.

As per norms, census can be conducted only three months after freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations. The finalisation of boundaries of administrative units entails covering all jurisdictional changes between two consecutive censuses. The last census was held in 2011.

The general elections are expected to be held in March-April 2024 and the completion of both the phases of census will take at least 11 months, even if done at accelerated pace from October, thereby ruling out the possibility of census happening anytime in 2023 and early 2024. Census before the 2024 general elections is possible if the rules are tweaked and a shorter process is introduced.

No reason cited

Unlike in the past, when COVID-19 and vaccination drive were cited as reasons for not conducting census, the January 2 letter by the office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) does not specify any reason. It also does not refer to the exercise as "Census 2021", the year in which the population enumeration was supposed to be concluded, it instead says, "ensuing Census".

The letter was sent by Additional RGI Sanjay to Chief Secretaries of States.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

'Expressway will be ready by Feb.'

RAMANAGARAM
Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, who inspected the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on Thursday, said that it would be ready for inauguration by February. » Page 4

Kannada literary meet from today

HUBBALLI
Amid voices of dissent and a few exits, the stage is set for the 86th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in Haveri, which promises to be a grand affair in the home district of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The three-day event starts on Friday. » Page 8

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

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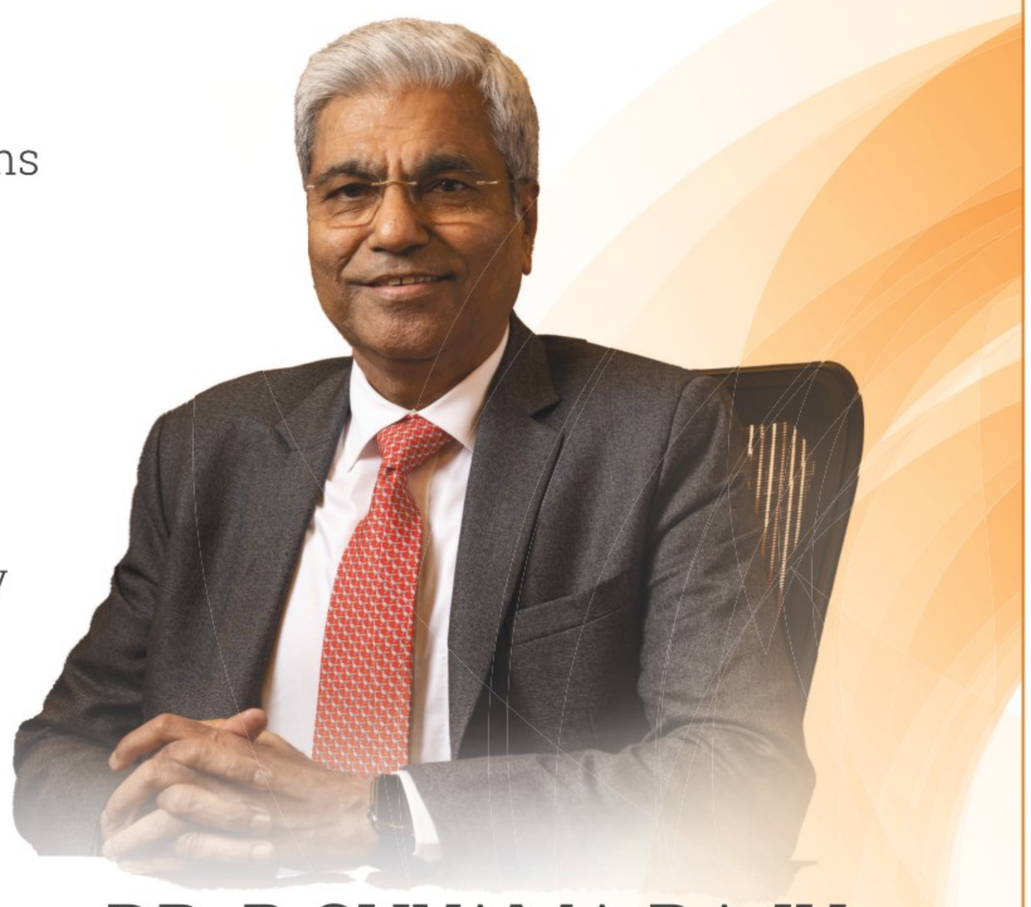

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Government approves funds for development in the North East

12,882 In ₹ crore, the amount approved by the Union government for the continuation of schemes by the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the rest of the 15th Finance Commission. The DoNER Minister said that the outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme will be ₹8,139.5 crore. PTI

Beneficiaries reject house sites provided by Andhra Pradesh

95,106 The number of women beneficiaries, who were given house sites in Andhra Pradesh two years ago, who are now refusing to build houses, according to the Housing Department. They say that the proposed layouts are either far away from human habitations or close to burial grounds, officials said. PTI

State-owned NTPC records a capacity utilisation of 73.7%

300 In billion units, the mark crossed by the State-owned power giant NTPC in electricity generation in the financial year 2022-23. As of January 5, 2023, NTPC has recorded a PLF (plant load factor or capacity utilisation) of 73.7% , compared to the 68.5% during the corresponding period in FY22, against the overall all-India PLF of 63.27%. PTI

Growth in domestic air passenger traffic to 129 lakh, says ICRA

15 In percentage, the growth in domestic air passenger traffic to around 129 lakh in December 2022 which remained 1% lower than the pre-pandemic level (December 2019), rating agency Commercial banking company (ICRA) said. In the April-December period of the current fiscal, domestic passenger traffic is estimated at around 986 lakh, it said. PTI

Layoffs in Amazon owing to 'uncertain economy', says CEO

18,000 The number of people to be fired from the workforce of Amazon, according to CEO Andy Jassy. Mr. Jassy cited "the uncertain economy" and the fact that the online retail giant had "hired rapidly" during the pandemic for the layoffs. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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India's plan to develop green hydrogen

What are the different types of hydrogen and why is it difficult to produce the green version of the same? What are the objectives of the National Green Hydrogen Mission? What are the two umbrella sub-programmes under the Mission? Why does the country want to be a leading exporter of green hydrogen?

EXPLAINER

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹19,744 crore National Green Hydrogen mission that aims to make India a 'global hub' for using, producing and exporting green hydrogen.

What is green hydrogen?

Hydrogen is a key industrial fuel that has a variety of applications including the production of ammonia (a key fertilizer), steel, refineries and electricity. However, all of the hydrogen manufactured now is the so-called 'black or brown' hydrogen produced from coal. Grey hydrogen is produced from natural gas while 'Blue' hydrogen is from fossil fuel sources where the ensuring carbon emitted is captured via carbon-capture processes. Green hydrogen is when hydrogen is produced via electrolysis, the splitting of water into hydrogen and oxygen with electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as solar or wind. This is the most environmentally sustainable way of producing hydrogen.

What is the caveat?

Green hydrogen currently accounts for less than 1% of global hydrogen production due to it being expensive to produce. A kilogram of black hydrogen costs $0.9-1.5 to produce while grey hydrogen costs $1.7-2.3 and blue hydrogen can cost anywhere from $1.3-3.6. However, green hydrogen costs $3.5-5.5 per kg, according to a 2020 analysis by the Council for Energy, Environment and Water.

What is the National Green Hydrogen Mission?

The intent of the mission is to incentivise the commercial production of green hydrogen and make India a net exporter of the fuel. The mission has laid out a target to develop green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum. This is alongside adding renewable energy capacity of about 125 GW (gigawatt) in the country. This will entail the decarbonisation of the industrial, mobility and energy sectors; reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels and feedstock; developing indigenous manufacturing capabilities; creating employment opportunities; and developing new technologies such as efficient fuel cells.

By 2030, the Centre hopes its investments will bring in investments worth ₹8 trillion and create over six lakh jobs. Moreover, about 50 MMT per annum of CO_2 emissions are expected to be averted by 2030. As per its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, India has committed to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from 2005 levels.

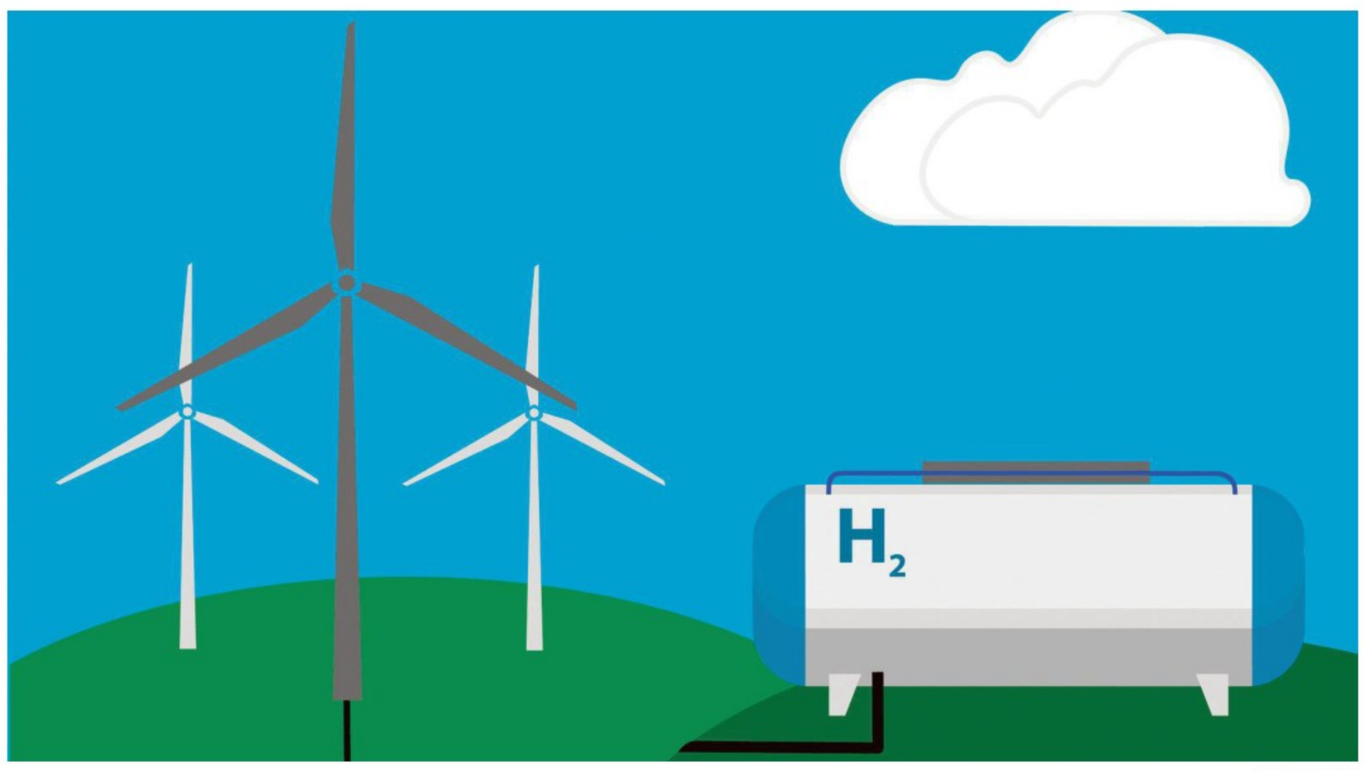
How will the mission support green hydrogen production?

The Mission will "facilitate demand creation, production, utilisation and export of Green Hydrogen," says a press release from the Ministry for New and Renewable Energy. There are two umbrella sub-missions under the programme. The first is the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT), that will fund the domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and produce green hydrogen. The second is to support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways. States and regions capable of supporting large scale production and/or utilisation of hydrogen will be identified and developed as Green Hydrogen Hubs. According to the Ministry, ₹17,490 crore would be for the SIGHT programme, ₹1,466 crore for pilot projects and hydrogen hubs, ₹400 crore for research and development and ₹388 crore for other parts of the mission.

What are the challenges ahead?

Several major industrial houses have announced plans to facilitate India's adoption of green hydrogen. However, they are all premised on India being able to access a reliable stream of components, upgrading the manufacturing and skill levels of its small and medium manufacturing enterprises and developing a transmission network that can supply the hydrogen produced from supply-spots to industrial centres across the country. Many advanced economies have also announced plans and policies to develop such an economy and given their advanced industrial infrastructure, can steal a march over India.

Green hydrogen development is still in the nascent stages globally and while India can take the lead in being a major producer, it doesn't have the necessary infrastructure yet to execute all these intermediary steps. It also needs to announce incentives to convince enough users of industrial hydrogen to adopt green hydrogen. It needs to develop supply chains in the form of pipelines, tankers, intermediate storage and last leg distribution networks as well as put in place an effective skill development programme to ensure that lakhs of workers can be suitably trained to adapt to a viable green hydrogen economy.



GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹19,744 crore National Green Hydrogen mission that aims to make India a 'global hub' for using, producing and exporting green hydrogen.
- Green hydrogen is when hydrogen is produced via electrolysis, the splitting of water into hydrogen and oxygen with electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as solar or wind. This is the most environmentally sustainable way of producing hydrogen.
- Green hydrogen development is still in the nascent stages globally and while India can take the lead in being a major producer, it doesn't have the necessary infrastructure yet to execute all intermediary steps.

Why is Japan offering money to move out of Tokyo?

Why is the country encouraging citizens to move out of the Tokyo metropolitan area? What are the likely benefits for citizens? How are rural areas suffering due to overpopulation in the capital region?

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

According to local media reports, Japan will pay up to one million yen (approximately ₹6 lakh) per child to families if they move out of the Tokyo metropolitan area. This amount was previously set at 3,00,000 yen and has been raised to reduce population concentration in the capital area. The new rule will be implemented starting April, the report added.

Why does Japan want people to move out of the metropolitan area?

In 2019, Japan released a revised version of a policy for revitalising its towns, people, and jobs. It included the current and future state of the country's population and aspirations. According to the policy document, the total population of Japan will decrease to around 90 million in 2060 (*Worldometer* estimates it to be over 125 million currently).

The impact of emigration has been felt sharply in rural areas the most, where the number of local community members have decreased, leading to a shrinkage in local and small-scale economic opportunities. This sets off an adverse chain reaction, the policy document notes. Once people move out and local economies decline, it becomes difficult to maintain essential life services in these areas, and the region loses its charm and functionality.

Japan's two-pronged solution to this problem includes achieving the goal of a vibrant local community and correcting the overconcentration in the Tokyo metropolitan area. Tokyo is also prone to earthquakes, and the overconcentration of the population and economy makes the nation vulnerable to loss. To strengthen its efforts of reducing overconcentration in Tokyo, the government plans to promote immigration and settlements in rural areas through policies like offering a lucrative sum of money. Other plans on the list include improving ties with local communities, creating a profitable economy, and promoting a work-life balance focused on peace of mind.

What is the Tokyo metropolitan area?

Tokyo, Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, and Kanagawa Prefecture are included in the Tokyo area.

What are the benefits of moving out?

The Regional Revitalisation Migration Support project provides subsidies to people living or working in the 23 wards of Tokyo (including the disadvantaged areas within Tokyo) to move out of the Tokyo metropolitan area and start a business or work. The subsidies are jointly provided by prefectures and municipalities. People who have lived in the 23 wards of Tokyo or in the Tokyo metropolitan area (excluding disadvantaged areas) for a total of five years or more in the last 10 years can, before they move, apply for the subsidy. It is also necessary for the applicants to have lived or commuted in the 23 wards of Tokyo, at least for the past one year. For people who lived in the metropolitan area (excluding disadvantaged areas) and commuted to schools and universities in the 23 wards, the period of commuting to schools is also counted under this project.

The application for the subsidy must be made between the three months and one year of moving into the municipality. It is also important for applicants to show that they intend to live in the area for at least five years.

THE GIST

- Japan will pay up to one million yen (approximately ₹6 lakh) per child to families if they move out of the Tokyo metropolitan area.
- The impact of emigration from rural to urban spaces has been felt sharply in rural areas the most, where the number of local community members have decreased, leading to a shrinkage in local and small-scale economic opportunities.
- The Regional Revitalisation Migration Support project provides subsidies to people living or working in the 23 wards of Tokyo to move out of the Tokyo metropolitan area and start a business or work.

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department Mangaluru Division Mangaluru

Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(68E/63E/59E/51E/43E/21E):2022-23:JE-3: Dated: 04.01.2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION / 2nd Call /3rd Call /4th call /5th Call

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in portal from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act Indent No :156655 **Under the Head Of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements.** Inviting Tender for **2nd Call** Indent No: 158012 And **4th Call** for Indent No. 152295 **Under the Head Of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements. Last date for reciept of above tender : 20.01.2023 upto 16.00 Hours.**

Inviting Tender for Indent No: 162063, 161757, 160410, 159375 **Under the Head Of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements** And Indent No. 160531 **Under the Head Of Account: 8443 Deposit Contribution.** Inviting Tender for **2nd Call** Indent No : 160566, 155240 And **3rd Call** Indent No. 154570, 156143, 155798, 155347, 156730 And Inviting Tender for **5th Call** Indent No. 156021 **Under the Head Of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements. Last date for reciept of above tender :16.01.2023 upto 16.00 Hours.**

Inviting Tender for **4th Call** Indent No. 152831, 152832 **Under the Head Of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District and Other Roads Improvements. Last date for reciept of above tender: 13.01.2023 upto 16.00 Hours.**

In the above Work Highest Cost of Estimate is Rs.500.00 Lakhs & Lowest Cost of Estimate is Rs.20.00 Lakhs. Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/MNG/MCA/1094/22-23 dt.05.01.2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ.ಧಾ/ಕ.ಇಂ.1/2022–23/3524 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–01–2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – 25/2022–23 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **No.FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 15–09–2017** ರನ್ವಯ **2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿಶೇಷ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿ ಕುಂದಗೋಳ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್ **KW-1, KW-2, & KW-3** ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ **2000** ರನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರಮೆಂಟ್ನ **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

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SC Category : 98326, 98322, 98265, 96937/Call-2
ST Category : 98737, 96927/Call-2,

ಕ್ಯಾಲೆಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಇವೆಂಟ್ಸ್: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **04–01–2023** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **12–01–2023** ರ ಸಂಜೆ **4.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. **(2)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13–01–2023** ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.30** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. **(3) ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:15 & 18** ರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18–01–2023** ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **11.30** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ.

ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ/ **EMD** ಮೊತ್ತ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–(ಕೆ.ಬಿ.ಚಾಟೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾ/933/2022–23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

Public Works Department

Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

Invitation for Short-Term Tender (I.F.T.) No.: 43/2022-23, Date: 29.12.2022

(For Road Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W.-2 in single and 3 in two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in single and two cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **31.12.2022 to 07.01.2023 up to 4.00 pm. (1)** Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **05.01.2023 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **07.01.2023 (up to 4.00 pm). (3)** Date of opening Financial & Technical Bids: **09.01.2023 at 4.30 pm.** (Technical Bid applies only to works of K.W.-3). **(4)** Date of opening Financial Bid after approval of Technical Bid (Applies only to works of K.W.-3). For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

DIPR/Chikkaballapura/R.O. No.429/MCA/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE-West /Work_TN-05-08/2022-23 Date: 02.01.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDER

(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Item rate tenders are invited through GoK e-Procurement platform for the following works by the Executive Engineer, West Division, Vijayanagar, BDA Complex, Bengaluru - 40 on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru from contractors registered as Class-I Contractors or equivalent KPWD/BDA/NH/MES/Railways. **(1) Name of work: Improvements to Roads and Drain in 100 feet road 80 feet road and 60 feet road of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout. Indent No.: BDA/2022-23/OD/WorK_Indent-1530.** Approx. cost put to tender: **Rs. 4126.00 Lakhs. (2) Name of work: Improvements to Roads and Drain in 5th, 6th and 8th Block of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout and Providing other Basic Facility Works. Indent No.: BDA/2022-23/OD/WorK_Indent-1531.** Approx. cost put to tender: **Rs. 4200.00 Lakhs. (3) Name of work: Consulting Services for construction supervision and Project Management and quality control for the work of improvements to Roads and drain in 100 feet road, 80 feet road and 60 feet road of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout. Indent No.: BDA/EE/West/T-7/2022-23. (Cost of the work approx Rs.4130.00 Lakhs). (4) Name of work: Consulting Services for construction supervision and Project Management and quality control for the work of improvements to Roads and drain in 5th, 6th and 8th Block of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout and providing other Basic Facility Works. Indent No.: BDA/EE/West/T-8/2022-23. (Cost of the work approx Rs.4200.00 Lakhs).** For further details, please log on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or call e-Procurement Help desk on 080-46010000/22631200.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, West Division, BDA, Bengaluru

BDA/PRO/TN/30/2022-23

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-procurement Portal Mode Only)

No.: SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AAE-2/F-32/22-23/4515-16 Date: 05.01.2023

KPTCL invites bids against the Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TRM/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/TLMVehicle/356/CALL-2, Dated: 05.01.2023** "Tender for Hiring of One Number of Tempo Traveller (14+1 Seater) for day to day maintenance works & break down works by carrying both men and materials as and when required for TLM Sub-Division, Kanakapura, coming under the jurisdiction of Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL".

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tender can be got by logging on or after **06.01.2023** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e-procurement-KPTCL'** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Maintenance), KPTCL, Ramanagara Circle, 220/66/11KV Vrushabhavati Valley Station, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560 026. Telephone: 080-29620155.

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga

Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.

No.: EE/PRE/DS/Soraba/KW-1&2/AE/JE/2022-23/1831
Date: 02.01.2023

Short-Term Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement)

From this Division to quote Itemwar rates for the works approved under 5054 Rain Damage Scheme for the year 2022-23 on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Itemwar Tenders are invited through e-procurement, as per the Rules of the Department in Standard Document for Procurement of Work K/W-1&2 forms from eligible contractors registered in Panchayat Raj Engineering/Public Works Department and Registered in e-procurement System. Contractors remitting Form Fee and E.M.D. through filling of Challan in e-payment (Credit Card/Direct Debit/NEFT & OTC) should submit two days earlier to the last date. **1)** Date for downloading Tender Form: from 02.01.2023 to 10.01.2023. **2)** Last date to submit Tender Form: 10.01.2023, 17:00:00 **3)** Date of opening the bid: 11.01.2023, 17:01:00

For details of e-procurement tender contact the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagara and can be viewed in e-procurement website (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) and can be downloaded. Further information can be obtained from the concerned case worker of this office on phone No. 08183-226064 during office hours or contact hp helpdesk phone No.: 080-25501216, 25501227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Sagara

DIPR/smg/NO:26/12/mca/22-23/1597

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಗರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ,
ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಲಯ, ಕೆ. ಹೆಚ್. ರಸ್ತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು –560 027.
E-Mail: cclczone@gmail.com , ದೂ. ಸಂ : 080–2224 0920

ಸಂ:ನಕೇಗ್ರಂ/ಕೇವ/ಎ1/ಗ.ಯು.ಸ/851/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03-01-2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ನಗರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶಾಖಾ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗಬಹುದಾದಂತಹ ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ, ಯು.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್. ಪ್ರಿಂಟ ಹಾಗೂ ವೈ–ಫೈ ರೂಟರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅನುಭವವುಳ್ಳ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಂಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1,10,000/– (ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಹತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವವರು **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18–01–2023** ಸಮಯ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.00** ಗಂಟೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21–01–2023** ಸಮಯ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು. ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080 2224 0920**

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ನಗರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಲಯ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/DDU/AAPL/RO.3890/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

(1)No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/F-/8055-63 Dt:04.01.2023

(1) TENDER INDENT No: **KPTCL/SEE/BGM/22-23/Sanitary worker** for "Outsourcing the services 02 Nos of **Sanitary Worker** required to the Tr(W&M), Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi., coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer Ele, Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi.

BRIEF RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(2)No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/F-/8065-76 Dt:04.01.2023

(2) KPTCL invites bids against this office Tender indent No.: BID ENQUIRY No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9635/CALL-4** TENDER FOR THE WORK OF TRANSPORTATION (TO & FRO), REPAIR OF SICK POWER TRANSFORMER AND TESTING, ASSEMBLING, ERECTION AND COMMISSIONING OF REPAIRED POWER TRANSFORMER OF RATING 20 MVA, 110/33-11 KV CLASS, SPEC-MAKE, SL.NO. 42896, YEAR OF MANUFACTURE-2011 POWER TRANSFORMER FAILED AT 110KV S/S M K HUBLI IN TL&SS DIVISION, KPTCL, BELAGAVI AND LAYING AT SRS HUBBALLI ON TOTAL TURNKEY BASIS ON PERCENTAGE TENDER BASIS.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the **"E-procurement"** mode can be obtained by logging on to E-procurement's website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in" on or after 4.00 p.m. on 06.01.2023**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590010. Phone: 0831-2950835/2950836

Govt of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS3/Tender Notification/2022-23/ 7585 Dated: 04.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-3 & KW-4) for 5054-Appendix-E (09) works of Indent No: 159395/CALL2, 160027/CALL2, 162525/CALL2, 162522/CALL2, 162518/CALL2, 162523/CALL2, 162523/CALL2, 162366/CALL2 & 161075/CALL2 tenders are called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23. 2) Estimated Cost : Estimate cost Minimum 83.85Lakhs & Maximum 423.54Lakhs. 3) Eligibility of Contractor : PWD, Registered Class-III and Above Contractors. 4) Tender fees and EMD details : Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD Minimum Rs. 1,70,000.00 & Maximum Rs. 6,35,000.00. 5) Pre Bid Meeting : 16/01/2023 upto 11.00 Hrs. 6) Last date for queries : 18/01/2023 upto 17.30 Hrs. 7) Last date for submission of tender : 19/01/2023 upto 16.00 Hrs. 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid : 20/01/2023 at 16:30 Hrs. 9)Date of opening of Financial Bid: 23/01/2023 at 11.00 Hrs. 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 11) website : www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Note: Due to Damage of Executive Engineer, Eprocurement Digital Key the notification No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS3/Tender Notification/2022-23/6970 Dated: 17.12.2022, revised as per above notification.

DIP/Kalaburagi/1073/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Kalaburagi

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಹುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ,
ನಜರಾಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು–10. ಇಮೇಲ್:khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:0821-2449772

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–2, 3/HWC/ಟೆಂಡರ್–50/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ	ವರ್ಗ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ
	ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು					
1	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಂಟ್ವಾಳ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ತೆಂಕಕಜೆಕಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಲ್ತ್ & ವೆಲ್‌ನೆಸ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent: 4761)	65.00	1.30,000/–	6 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
2	ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಊಗಿನಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಲ್ತ್ & ವೆಲ್‌ನೆಸ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent: 4759)	60.00	1.20,000/–			
3	ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಆಲೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮಡಬಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಲ್ತ್ & ವೆಲ್‌ನೆಸ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent: 4770)	61.00	1.22,000/–			
	ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–3/ಬಿ.ಎಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್–24–2ನೇ ಕರೆ/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2023					
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ	ವರ್ಗ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ
	ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2210–01–110–1–01–200 (ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ)					
1	ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕೊಪ್ಪ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (Indent-4400)	14.10	17,625/–	2 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಎಸ್.ಸಿ	ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
2	ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹಿರೇಮಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಮತ್ತು ದಾದಿಯರ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (Indent-4399)	6.00	7,500/–		ಎಸ್.ಸಿ	
	ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2210–01–110–1–21–422 (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ) (ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ)					
3	ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಸಕಲೇಶಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಉಚ್ಚಂಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (Indent-4678)	10.60	13,250.00	2 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಎಸ್.ಟಿ	ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
	ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–3/ಟೆಂಡರ್–47 3ನೇ ಕರೆ–ಕೊಪ್ಪ/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2023					
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ	ವರ್ಗ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ
	ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2210–01–110–1–01–200 (ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ)					
1	ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ **ಕೊಪ್ಪ** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಅವಶ್ಯಕ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent-4078)	10.00	0.13	2 ತಿಂಗಳು	ಎಸ್.ಟಿ	ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : **19.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **20.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 16.01 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸೂಚನೆ:** ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಆಹುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/846/2022-23

CHAMARAJANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Sy. No.124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar - 571313.

No: CIMS/Tender/28/33/37/38/2022-23 Date: 03-01-2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director & Dean, Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Chamarajanagar invite the tenders from eligible tenderers in TWO cover system through e-procurement for having,

1. Re-tender for Supply of Consumables to Blood Bank of CIMS Teaching Hospital, Chamarajanagar (CIMS/Tender/BB/28/2022-23/Call-2), Tender Value Rs. 37,80,990/-, EMD Amount Rs. 75,620.00, Date and time for uploading the tender is from 05-01-2023 at 10.00AM to 23-01-2023 up to 5.30PM;

2. Tender for Supply, installation and commissioning of campus wide networking for CIMS, Chamarajanagar (CIMS/Tender/Network/33/2022-23/Call-2), Tender Value Rs. 100.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount Rs. 2,00,000/-, Date and time for uploading the tender is from 05-01-2023 at 10.00AM to 23-01-2023 up to 5.30PM;

3. Tender for Supply of Consumables to Anesthesiology of CIMS Teaching Hospital, Chamarajanagar (CIMS/Tender/Anes/cons/37/2022-23), Tender Value Rs. 16,21,825/-, EMD Amount Rs. 40,545/-, Date and time for uploading the tender is from 05-01-2023 at 10.00AM to 23-01-2023 up to 5.30PM; and

4. Tender for Supply of Medical Equipment to Ophthalmology department of CIMS Teaching Hospital, Chamarajanagar (CIMS/Tender/Ophtho/ME/38/2022-23), Tender Value Rs. 39,35,000/-, EMD Amount Rs. 78,700/-, Date and time for uploading the tender is from 05-01-2023 at 10.00AM to 23-01-2023 up to 5.30PM;

Any more details can be obtained from the website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in w.e.f 05-01-2023 or at office in all working days from 10.00AM to 5.00PM.

**Sd/- Director and Dean, Chamaraj

INBRIEF

BWSSB phone-in programme to be held tomorrow

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold a phone-in programme on Saturday. According to a BWSSB release, BWSSB Chairman, N. Jayaram, will address the grievances of consumers pertaining to water billing, manhole overflowing, meter reading, improper water supply and sanitary issues.

Those interested to participate in the programme can call Ph: 080-22945119 between 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. They are required to share their R.R. number details before raising a complaint, the release stated.

29-year-old private firm employee arrested for forgery

The Central division cybercrime police on Thursday arrested a 29-year-old private firm employee for cheating a leading finance company and the online marketing firm in the form of forgery. The accused identified as Vikas, from J.P. Nagar 6th phase, accessed the customer details of a leading finance company, using which he created a set of IDs like Aadhaar and PAN cards, using which he obtained credit cards, SIM cards, and purchased online expensive goods like mobile phone and laptops. The cheating came to light when the company failed to recover the dues and filed a complaint with the police.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused and arrested him. Within a few months, the accused had cheated the company of worth ₹14.2 lakh.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (January 6, Friday), the following explainer is available:

- India's plan to develop green hydrogen
bit.ly/greenhydrogenprod

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Accused found dead in police custody; CID to investigate

Family members and other activists from the area have announced they will hold a protest on Friday demanding a thorough probe and disciplinary action against police officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old labourer, booked in a preparation for dacoity case and arrested by Cottonpet Police to execute a non-bailable warrant, was found dead in police custody in the early hours of Thursday, sparking outrage.

While police said it was a natural death, the case will be handed over to Criminal Investigation Department for further probe.

The deceased Vinod, a resident of Jali Mohalla was living with his mother and three siblings, and working as a coolie in K.R. Market.

Lakahman Nimbargi, DCP, West Division, said that Vinod was booked for preparation of dacoity in 2017 along with four others and he was accused number 4. Recently, the court had issued a non-bailable warrant after he jumped bail and he was arrested.

Vinod.

"After dinner, he went to sleep and was supposed to be produced before the court on Thursday. The incident came to light around 3.45 a.m. when station house officer found him lying motionless and rushed him to hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead," claimed Mr. Nimbargi.

"As per the rules, a case of custodial death has been registered under Section 176 of Cr.PC and following the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) guidelines, the case will be handed over to the CID," he added.

Role of police

Meanwhile, his family members refused to buy the version that Vinod died a natural death, and they raised suspicions on the role of the police and demanded a detailed probe to ascertain the exact cause of death.

"The police are not even giving a convincing reply and are claiming that Vinod died due to heart attack. They are not allowing us to see the body. The police took away our mother in the early hours, and did not even inform the other members of the family about the death till afternoon," Kumaresh, elder brother of Vinod said.

Family members had refused to take the body unless their demand for a fair probe and an autopsy supervised by a magistrate were met.

Amidst protests by family members, also supported by members of Slum Women Association, police convinced the family to bury him Thursday night.

An autopsy was conducted and the report is awaited. Slum Women Association demanded a probe by Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into the incident.

Family members and activists from the area have announced they will hold a protest on Friday demanding a thorough probe and disciplinary action against police officials of Cottonpet Police Station.

Plea to set up corpn. after Narayana Guru

Minister V. Sunil Kumar handing over a memorandum to CM Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation led by Minister for Kannada and Culture and Energy V. Sunil Kumar on Thursday called on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and submitted a petition seeking the establishment of a corporation after the 19th-century social reformer Narayana Guru.

Upliftment of the community

The demand is likely to be included in the State Budget to be presented by Mr. Bommai, who also holds the Finance portfolio.

The corporation should be aimed at uplifting the economically disadvantaged Billava community people, who are the followers of Narayana Guru, by extending them various facilities, like other government-run corporations in the State.

Narayana Guru fought against untouchability and his thoughts and preachings are ever relevant, members of the delegation said.

State BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel, MLAs Raghupathi Bhat and Hartal Halappa, and Billava community seers were part of the delegation.

Shivamogga ISIS conspiracy case: Two more arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided six locations and arrested two suspects, including an engineering student, for their alleged involvement in the Shivamogga Islamic State conspiracy case. The arrested have been identified as Reshaan Thajuddin Sheikh, an engineering student from Varamballi, Bramhavar, Udupi district, and Huzair Farhan Baig, Tippu Sultan Nagar, Shivamogga district.

Mangaluru blast incident

The case is closely linked to Mohammed Shariq, who recently was arrested after a cooker bomb he was carrying accidentally exploded in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru, is the prime accused in the case from September 2022. Shariq had fled from Shivamogga after the case was booked and two of his associates were arrested, only to surface in Mangaluru with the bomb.

According to the official release, the NIA officials conducted searches at six locations across Karnataka including the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, Davanagere and Bengaluru on Thursday.

"The case relates to conspiracy hatched by the accused to further the terror activities of Islamic State (IS), a banned terrorist organisation, and to endanger the unity, security and sovereignty of the country," NIA said in a statement.

The raids and arrests by NIA comes from leads during the interrogation of Mohammed Shariq and Maaz Muneer, sources said. Probe revealed that the Maaz Muneer radicalised his college mate and close associate Reshaan Thajuddin and Huzair Farhan Baig, respectively.

Both of them received funds from their ISIS handler through Crypto-wallets for furthering the terrorist activities of the Islamic State, NIA sources said.

"As part of their larger violent and disruptive designs, they also indulged in arson and targeting of vehicles and other establishments, such as liquor shops, godowns, transformers," NIA claimed.

During the searches conducted today, digital devices and incriminating documents were seized from the houses of accused and the suspects. Two other accused have been arrested earlier.

Further investigations in the case are in progress, NIA said.

Elderly woman robbed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A gang of four barged into the house of an elderly woman, gagged her with tape and ransacked the house before fleeing away with cash, gold valuables and mobile phone total worth ₹7.6 lakh in KS Layout on Tuesday evening.

The victim, Srilakshmi, K.S., was alone at home when one of the accused knocked on the door posing as a courier delivery agent, and as soon as Srilakshmi responded, the gang barged in, gagged her mouth, threatened her before fleeing with the valuables.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

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Hiding behind monsters: spotting the queer in Hollywood's horror movies

Films on vampires and monsters have often represented the anxieties that normalisation of homosexuality posed. At the same time, the genre of horror has been used by openly gay filmmakers as a way of coded self-expression

Pallavi Keswani

In a secluded opera box in 1931, Bela Lugosi as Dracula looms over Mina Seward, Jonathan Harker, and Lucy Weston. Weston recites a toast in jest, "Quaff a cup to the dead already, hurrah for the next to die," and Lugosi is quick to respond: "To die, to be really dead, that must be glorious...there are far worse things awaiting man, than death." When Tod Browning directed this film, Hollywood truly believed that far worse things than death awaited our screens: the queers.

Tucked within Lugosi's flamboyant cape, hiding beneath Dr. Frankenstein's experiments, and threatening to erupt from teenagers turning into werewolves, the depiction of queerness in Hollywood has been pushed into the nooks and crannies of horror films. The monster and the homosexual, both an 'othered' entity, have existed in a conflated relationship. Without explicitly addressing homosexuality, Hollywood created a coded language. The foreign Count Dracula who brought moral corruption, sucking away at society's pure blood, and the unnatural creation of Frankenstein that stood jarringly in contrast to God's natural creation, represented the anxieties that normalisation of homosexuality posed.

It is also why openly gay filmmakers like James Whale found this genre to be a way of coded self-expression. Collaborating with other queer artists of the time, Whale directed Universal Studios' slate of horror films including *Frankenstein* (1931), *The Old Dark House* (1932), and *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935). He infused them with an eccentric mise-en-scène that spoke the secret shared language of queerness. Queer filmmakers of the time, who could not openly address their ostracisation, created monsters that shared their pain onscreen.

Man's horror companion: the Vampire

To identify a hero, we need a villain, and to validate our humanity, we have created monsters, of which the most constant has been the vampire. From folklore staple to guaranteed blockbusters, vampires have died and come back to life to occupy prime entertainment position. Carrying the fear of being hunted, alongside the dread of an eternal existence, vampires have presented society with an almost blank canvas on which it has cyclically painted its conservative fears.

Following the implementation of the Hays Code in 1934, Hollywood further marginalised the vampire, divorcing the creature of any complexity. The late 1950s up to the 1960s saw a surge of Dracula films by Hammer Film Productions which relied on morally simple plotlines featuring a rudimentary monster.

Later, as American morality walked the tightrope of the Watergate scandal, its psychological fears were reflected in the 1979 series of *Salem's Lot*. Adapted from a Stephen King novel, it doubled down on the familiar premise of a small town being run over by foreign vampires.

Eventually, on the heels of the feminist and LGBT movements of the previous decade, Tony Scott's *The Hunger* (1983), marked a turn in vampire media. Casting an envious eye on the prospect of eternal youth, Scott located the drama between a trio of explicitly queer vampires played by David Bowie, Susan Sarandon, and Catherine Deneuve.

Events finally came to a head when vampires migrated to our television screens. through series' like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997), *True Blood* (2008) and The Vampire Diaries (2009).

Suppressing queer intimacy

However, before these straight teenage high-school vampires chose to glitter in the sun, the sub-genre had served as an outlet for queer intimacy.

Prior to Stoker's Count Dracula, John William Polidori and Sheridan Le Fanu had enriched gothic literature with individually complex monsters. Polidori's Lord Ruthven, in *The Vampyre* binds his human companion to an oath, while Le Fanu's eponymous *Carmilla* seduces her female lover and prey. In her book, *Our Vampires, Ourselves* Nina Auerbach describes Le Fanu's vampire as one that invokes "the horror inherent in the Victorian dream of cosiness, the restoration of lost intimacy and comfort." Carmilla, has seen multiple adaptations, all of which have followed the vampiric woman seeking out a comparatively naïve partner.

The implicit sexual transgression of the female vampire existed to increase the weight of the antagonist's sin. In *Dracula's Daughter* (1936) Countess Marya Zaleska desperately seeks out a psychiatrist. "It came over me again, that overpowering command, wordless, insistent, and I had to obey," she tells him. When he probes further, she hangs her head in shame saying, "I can't tell you, it's too ghastly." A parallel to medical interventions against homosexuality, the figure of the vampire in fiction seeks self-suppression to fit into society. The queerness of female vampires, written in by men, for the pleasure of men, was swiftly punished to soothe the morality of men.

Meanwhile the rendering of the most famous vampire in literature, written after the Oscar Wilde trials, steers clear of homoeroticism. Auerbach notes that visual depictions of Dracula in media however have steeped it in homoerotic subtexts. However, the Hays code in 1934 and the ensuing Lavender Scare (when the U.S. government was firing all identifiable homosexual employees), meant that the Dracula was to revert to a one-note villain.

Bringing queer back in horror

Today, television seems to be inching back to horror as a site to explore the nuances of queerness. Jemaine Clement's *What We Do in the Shadows* has de-sanitised the conventional family sitcom to make way for a comical vampire found-family. In a rundown house in New York's Staten Island, the dynamic that unravels between the vampires and their human familiar is rife with not only vampiric eccentricities but also a normalised queerness. The mentions of homosexuality in the vampire personal lives are made in a matter-of-fact manner that removes the burden of marginality. Now in its fourth season, *Shadows*, has continued its thread of making queerness a constantly evolving part of the storyline and its characters.

American cable television has also caught up with a serialised remake of Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire* (2022). It adds several layers to Rice's existing characters, making Louis a black man in early 20th century New Orleans. However, despite the supernatural nature of Louis and Lestat's romance as two vampires, the show firmly roots its narratives in the politics of the time. As a closeted gay black man, Louis' relation with his family is impacted by his relationship with Lestat. On the other hand, Louis' transformation into a vampire is preceded by Lestat coaxing him with, "I can swap this life of shame."

Meanwhile, Netflix's *First Kill* reshapes the archetypical teenage vampire-human romance to make both the leads women. The external obstacles between the two emerge from their identities as vampire and vampire hunter, instead of a queer-based crisis. Emulating its predecessors in a corny storyline, *First Kill* drew massive viewership but was eventually cancelled after only its first season.

The queer vampire shows of 2022 feed society's curiosity and investigate the personal lives of the eternal monsters. They are rendered increasingly more human, displaying emotions and anxieties like their mortal counterparts. When the lens that probes them is questioning instead of fearful, we are allowed whole characters instead of snarling monsters.

Queerness as a lived experience has been shamed into solitude. That solitude extended to the screens where the depiction of queerness was violently separated from humanity. In the grotesque, vile, and ostracised monsters the queer community of the 20th century saw themselves represented for the first time. This imagery being the only widely available visual rhetoric also lent itself to the stereotype of the perverse, violent queer. The queer that needs to be made part of society by erasing their queerness. In adding humanity to the queerness of the monsters, our culture returns to the site to resurrect the community that it has buried.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

January 6 marks the 56th birthday of the legendary music composer and singer A.R. Rahman. Here is a quiz on the life of the Mozart of Madras

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

The noted music composer, singer and songwriter first began by composing ad jingles and went on to compose 'viral' tunes. For one jingle he adapted Mozart's 25th symphony creating a tune that still remains iconic. Name the brand for which he created the tune.

QUESTION 2

Which country has a street named after the composer? Name the city where it is located.

QUESTION 3

Both Tere Rang from *Atrangi Re* and Pookkalae Sattru Oyivedungal from *I* are composed by A.R. Rahman but have something else in common. Identify the connection.

QUESTION 4

This song was composed by the maestro for a 2002 movie directed by Mani Ratnam. Set in the Hamsadhwani ragam, it features lyrics that translate to "can crores of songs, the words meshed by a poet, give meaning like a drop of tear". Name the song and the movie.

QUESTION 5

Penned by a former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and composed by Rahman, this song was crooned by several leading artists including Vijay Yesudas, Anuradha Sriram and Yuvan Shankar Raja. What occasion was the song composed for? Name the song.

QUESTION 6

A.R. Rahman won a British Academy Film Award (BAFTA) for Best Film Music for *Slumdog Millionaire*. He was nominated for another BAFTA in 2011. Name the movie.

Visual question:
Name the movies Kamal Haasan and A.R. Rahman have collaborated on. TWITTER/@ARRAHMAN

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The English bowler who got Don Bradman out for a duck in his last inning. **Ans: Eric Hollies**
2. Jarmila Kratochvílová holds the longest standing world record in athletics for this event. **Ans: 800 metres for women**
3. This monarch holds the record for the longest reign. **Ans: Louis XIV of France**
4. This woman leader holds the record for the longest tenure (16 years and 16 days). **Ans: Angela Merkel**
5. This Chief Justice of India holds the record for the longest tenure. **Ans: Justice Y. V. Chandrachud (the current CJI's father)**
Visual: The claim to fame of this paper. **Ans: Oldest published English newspaper still in circulation**
Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Neeti Baheriya| Ashutosh Marballi

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. M. A. Sadanand of Madras wants to know whether 'co-brother' is English."

"The term 'co-brother' is not used in English. It is very Indian. It refers to the husband of one's spouse's sister. In English, this relationship is conveyed by the term 'brother-in-law'. 'Brother-in-law' covers several relationships in English. We want to be very specific and hence we have coined this term. It is not English but it serves a useful purpose. I am all for retaining it. I understand that 'co-brother' is used only in South India."

"Mr. M. S. Chandra Narayanan of Madurai wants to know the difference between 'biennial' and 'biannual'."

" 'Biennial' means 'occurring every two years'.

The Association has a biennial election instead of an annual one.

'Biannual' means occurring twice a year.

We have biannual stock-taking.

It is a biannual journal."

"Ms. N. R. M. Shantha of Pallathur wants to know the pronunciation of 'prestige'."

" 'Prestige' is pronounced 'presteeg'. The first 'e' in 'prestige' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed'. The 'i' is pronounced like the 'ee' in 'feel' and 'feet'. The final 'e' is silent. The 'g' is pronounced as the 's' in 'pleasure' and 'measure'."

" Mr. A. V. Narasimham of Nellore wants to know the meaning of the word 'jinx'."

" 'Jinx' is 'a person or thing that brings bad luck or exercises evil influence'.

She is a jinx to them.

The dog is a jinx on the house.

He seems to be jinx-ridden.

When it is used as a verb, it means 'to cast a spell or bring bad luck upon'.

This place has jinxed me.

Her lover's ghost must have jinxed her car.

I just can't succeed. I am jinxed.

This seems to be a jinxed plane.

'Jinx' is from Greek 'iunx' which means 'wryneck'. It is the name of a bird used in magic. 'Jinx' rhymes with 'sinks' and 'links'."

Word of the day

Adduce:
advance evidence for (used as a verb)

Synonyms: cite, abduce

Usage:
What were the arguments adduced for and against the topic of debate?

Pronunciation: bit.ly/adducepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈdjuːs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

NWKRTC bus catches fire

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A NWKRTC bus caught fire near Belagavi on Thursday. The vehicle suffered extensive damage, but no one was injured. It was on its way to Belagavi from Kolhapur in Maharashtra.

It caught fire near Hattaragi Toll Naka.

The driver asked all passengers to get off the vehicle and they all got down in time, while the fire spread to all parts of the bus.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 06			
RISE	06:43	SET	18:07
RISE	17:39	SET	06:08
SATURDAY, JAN. 07			
RISE	06:44	SET	18:08
RISE	18:31	SET	06:59
SUNDAY, JAN. 08			
RISE	06:44	SET	18:08
RISE	19:23	SET	07:47

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	15
Bengaluru	25	17

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable and humid. Night will be cool with haze.

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THE HINDU
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State govt. prescribing fee even for unaided schools unconstitutional: HC

High court found several provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983 and rules framed under this law as contrary to Constitution in so far as their applicability to unaided schools; Justice E.S. Indiresh passed the order while allowing the petitions filed several schools

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major setback to the State government, the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday declared as unconstitutional Section 48 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, which prohibits even private unaided schools from collecting fee in any name other than in such rate and manner prescribed by the State government.

FROM THE COURT

Clauses on safety

Also, the court declared as unconstitutional the Section 5A of the Act, which mandates even the private unaided schools and its employees to take such steps as prescribed by the government to protect safety and security of children, including protection from sexual offences.

Justice E.S. Indiresh passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by the Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, the managements of Independent CBSE Schools' Association Karnataka, Association of International Schools, and the Karnataka Private Schools' Committee, and several private unaided schools.

Section 112A, which prescribes punishment for member of management, for violating Section 5A, has also been found to be violative.

Similarly, the High Court has declared as unconstitutional Section 2(11A) of the Act, which empowers District Education Regulatory Authority (DERA) headed by Deputy Commissioner of each district to regulate even unaided schools, and Section 124A, which authorises the DERA to impose penalty up to ₹10 lakh even on unaided schools for violating Section 48. The court said these provisions of the Act are violative of Section 14 [right to equality before the law] and Section 19(1)(g) [right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.] of the Constitution of India in so far their applicability to the unaided schools are concerned, as per the law laid down by the apex court on the rights of unaided educational institutions.

Punishment clause

The Section 112A, which prescribes punishment of minimum six months and fine up to ₹1 lakh to any employee or member of the management of an educational institution for violating Section 5A has also been found to be violative of the Constitution by the court. The court also declared that the rules, made in 1995 and 1999 restraining all schools from collecting term fees from pre-primary and lower primary students and restricting the amount to be collected in the form of 'special development fee', are not applicable to the unaided schools.

NAL develops upgraded version of airboat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) which had developed an airboat Jaldost MkI has now come up with an upgraded version of the airboat.

It which uses air propulsion, thrust vectoring technology to travel in shallow and flood waters is capable of weed cutting and scooping the floating waste products. The upgraded version, Jaldost MkII is an aerospace technology based spin off societal product for cleaning water bodies. The key features of Jaldost MkII include a mechanised system to pick up the floating trash as well as rooted aquatic weeds and excess vegetation.

PWD Jr. Engineer arrested for carrying ₹10 lakh unaccounted cash in Vidhana Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Security personnel at the West Gate of Vidhana Soudha caught a Junior Engineer with the Public Works Department carrying unaccounted cash ₹10 lakh on him, Wednesday evening. The official J. Jagadeesh was arrested by the police on Thursday evening, after he appeared for an investigation but allegedly did not cooperate with the probe, sources said.

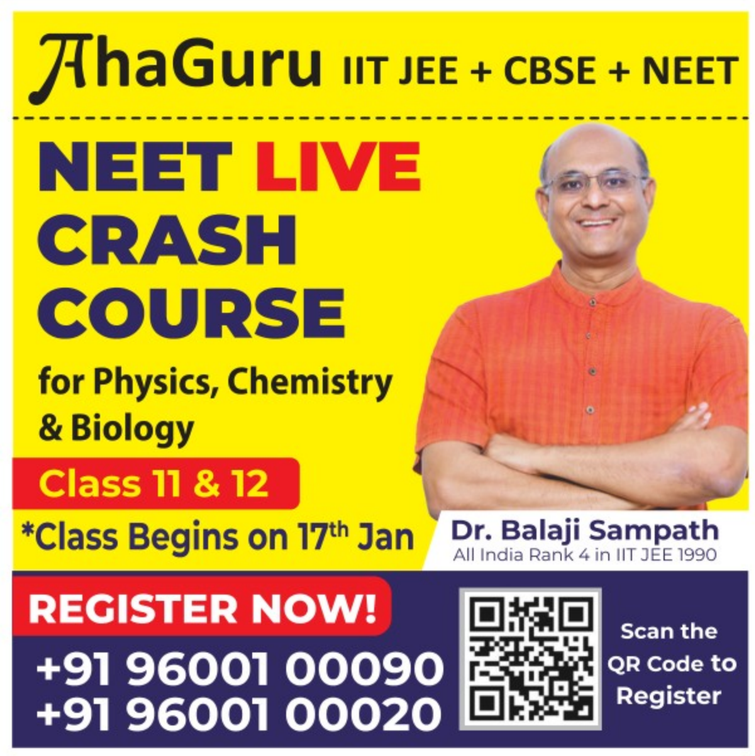
The incident has given ammunition for the political opposition Congress to allege the incident was only the latest evidence that under the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, corruption was unchecked and Vidhana Soudha had itself become a "den of corruption".

In a series of tweets, Karnataka Congress alleged: "Under the BJP government, Vidhana Soudha has become like a shopping mall and ministers have opened shops. With 40% commission, everything is on sale here. The latest incident of an officer being caught with ₹10 Lakh is evidence to all of this."

The incident triggers allegations of unchecked corruption in the seat of power

J. Jagadeesh was frisked and the money was discovered by security personnel at the West Gate of Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday evening at around 5:50 p.m. The officer told the police that he was on his way to Mandya where the money was intended for, but he had made a brief stop in Vidhana Soudha to finish an official work. However, he neither gave an explanation as to why he was carrying such a huge amount of cash on him nor divulged the source of the cash, police said. "We seized the cash and booked a case on Wednesday evening and served a notice to the officer to appear for investigation on Thursday. But even on Thursday, the officer failed to provide a satisfactory explanation and was not cooperating with the investigation. So he was arrested," a senior official said.

It may be recalled that the security personnel at Vidhana Soudha had intercepted a car belonging to an advocate carrying hard cash worth ₹1.9 crore in October 2016.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Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway will be ready by Feb.: Gadkari

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari conducts aerial survey along the alignment of the road; once completed it would be inaugurated either by the Prime Minister or the President

The Hindu Bureau
RAMANAGARAM

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, who inspected the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on Thursday, said that it would be ready for inauguration by February.

Mr. Gadkari conducted an aerial survey along the alignment of the road and later told mediapersons near Ramanagaram, about 45 km from Bengaluru, that there was some pending work near the Mysuru end it would be expedited for completion by February. ''Once completed it would be inaugurated either by the Prime Minister or the President'', he said.

Describing the corridor as a catalyst to spur investment along the region, Mr. Gadkari said that it would also help in the industrial development along the corridor and trigger growth of Mysuru, besides Ramanagaram and Mandya.

The Minister expressed confidence that the shorter time travel will encourage the IT sector to invest in Mysuru, adding that the cheaper land rate will make the city attractive for industrialists. It will also give a fillip to the growth of educational institutions in the region, he added.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inspecting a portion of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway near Ramanagaram on Thursday. Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan, and D.K.Suresh, MP, are seen. M.A. SRIRAM

Mr. Gadkari said he was in talks with transport companies and wanted them to design air-conditioned buses with business class seats to operate on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway. This will encourage people to shift from private to public transport system and help reduce traffic density.

Cost factor

He said that the government is striving to reduce the logistics costs through infrastructure development and better connectivity. At present the logistic cost in India was almost 16 per cent of the GDP and the government wants to reduce it to single digits. In comparison, the figure is 12% in the U.S and most European countries and 8% to 10% in China, he added.

In reply to criticism by some elected representatives, including Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, that the highway was 'unscientifically' designed, Mr. Gadkari said they will evaluate the complaints on technical parameters if any specific issues are raised. "The DPRs are prepared by a team of technical experts, and not by politicians or Ministers. But if the MP has any reservation, we will check with the technical committee,'' said Mr. Gadkari.

The problem of flooding reported from Ramanagaram during recent rains is being evaluated and solutions will be incorporated, besides carrying out a road safety audit.

Satellite Town Ring Road

Mr. Gadkari also surveyed the Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road being developed at a cost of ₹13,139 crore, and expressed confidence that it would reduce traffic congestion in Bengaluru by allowing smooth movement of freigh,t obviating their entry into the city. The road is proposed to be 288-km in length and will connect the Bengaluru suburban areas of Devanahalli, Hoskote, Doddaballapur, Ramanagaram and Anekal.

The road will be connected to the multi-nodal logistics park at Dobbaspet and linked to the proposed Pune-Bengaluru Greenfield Expressway, added Mr. Gadkari who was accompanied by Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh, and Mysuru MP Pratap Simha.

'Once Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway is ready, travel time will reduce to 2.15 hrs'

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari alights from the helicopter after conducting an aerial inspection of the Bengaluru-Mysuru and the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway projects on Thursday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After conducting an aerial inspection of under construction Bengaluru-Chennai expressway in Hoskote, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways told the reporters that once complete, the motorists will be able to travel between two cities in 2.15 hours. The expressway is designed to drive vehicles at a speed of 120 kmph. After doing the aerial inspection, the helicopter on which the minister was travelling landed on the helipad built on the under-construction expressway.

"At present, travel time taken between Bengaluru and Chennai is around 5 hours. Once the expressway opens, the travel time will get reduced to 2.15 hours. The distance between two destinations is 300 km and with the implementation of the new road project, travel distance gets reduced to 262 km. The NHAI is aiming to complete by March 2024. The expressway will be connected with the proposed Bengaluru ring road. The total cost of the project is ₹17,000 crore," the minister said.

Out of total length, 71 km length falls within Karnataka and rest in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The minister added the contract has been already awarded for the entire stretch and construction initiatives for 231 km of stretch.

"The NHAI is waiting for forest clearance to take up construction works in the remaining stretch," said the minister.

The minister added that the expressway will help in reducing the logistic cost and will be reduced from 16% to 6%, this will benefit the traders, businessmen and industries in the region.

Amruth Mahostav bird garden and Amruth Sarovar

The Union Minister said that he has given instructions to the officials to develop Amruth Mahostav bird garden and Amruth Sarovar. The first is aimed at a park reserved for birds by growing indigenous fruit bearing trees and second is for water conservation. These projects will be taken up along the alignment of Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway and proposed Ring Road on the periphery of Bengaluru.

No convention to name NH, says Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
RAMANAGARAM

There is no convention to name highways though requisitions have come from MPs, said Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, at Ramanagaram on Thursday.

His response was sought on the demand for naming the Bengaluru Mysuru Expressway as Cauvery Expressway by Mysuru MP Pratap Simha while former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna wanted it to be named after Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar. Mr. Gadkari said he would discuss the issue with CM Basavaraj Bommai and will also refer the issue to Prime Minister Modi.

Alignment of Bengaluru Ring Road to be altered near Bannerghatta forest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nitin Gadkari has agreed to alter alignment resulting in increased project cost. The road goes via the periphery of the forest area, says Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

After a meeting with Nitin Gadkari, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told the media persons that the Union Minister has assured that the alignment of the Satellite Township Ring Road (STRR) – Bengaluru Ring Road – will be changed near Bannerghatta.

Earlier, there was a proposal to build the road in the forest area by building an elevated corridor of 7 km and the State government had raised strong reservations about the project as it impacts the wildlife of the National Park. CM said, "The State Wildlife Board had taken a stand that the proposed road should not go via the forest area. The minister has agreed to alter alignment resulting in increased project cost. The road goes via the periphery of the forest area."

The CM said 4-lane construction of Shiradi Ghat will commence from March and design is getting ready for building a tunnel network in the long run. The issue of prohibiting entry of heavy vehicles on Peenya Flyover came for discussion, Mr. Gadkari instructed the officials to take up the rectification works and allow all kinds of traffic on the flyover.

The NHAI is building 288 km STRR, out of which 244 fall in Karnataka and remaining in Tamil Nadu. Contract has been awarded to implement 136 km of work. He added that the provision will be made to build double decker roads in future. "The construction of STRR will help in decongesting traffic in the city. The road links suburban areas such as Hoskote, Devanahalli, Ramangara and other areas. I suggest the State government set up satellite towns in these areas to resolve the traffic issues," Nitin Gadkari said after his aerial inspection of the expressway. The minister reiterated the need of the skybus transport system to address the traffic issues and said the Ministry is working with various agencies having expertise.

Nitin Gadkari told the media persons that the NHAI is contemplating to use segregated waste of Bengaluru city for construction of ring road.

'Highway projects to spur growth'

The Hindu Bureau
RAMANAGARAM

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said in Ramanagaram on Thursday that a slew of highway projects crisscrossing the State would have a positive bearing on the local economic activity.

The Minister said the Pune-Bengaluru access-controlled greenfield project under Bharatmala Phase-2 will have a 700 km stretch of which 500 km will pass through Karnataka and 200 km through Maharasthra. The cost of the project is pegged at ₹50,000 crore.

NHAI allays concern over entries, exits for towns

The Hindu Bureau
RAMANAGARAM

The ongoing Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway project has been provided with entries and exits for all major towns along the stretch, according to the authorities. This assumes significance due to frequent demand from the elected representatives so as to cater to any emergency.

The authorities said entries and exits have been provided at Bidadi, Ramanagaram, Channapatana, Maddur, Mandya and Srirangapatna.

"There is a misunderstanding that entry and exit points to the towns mentioned above have not been provided," said the officials from the National Highways Authority of India. Additional work in principle approved by the Central government to enhance road safety include a merging of access control highway with NICE ring road at the Bengaluru-end of the expressway.

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project
(funded by the French Development Agency), Aravali Bhawan, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004, Rajasthan, India

Notification

The Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible organizations in delivering services as a Project Management Consultant.The EoI may be downloaded from **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or **https://afd.dgmarket.com** or **http://forest.rajasthan.gov.in**.
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Raj.Samwad/C/22/12775 **Project Director**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of DCF(Forest Department), BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No: DCF/BBMP/TC/07/2022-23 **Date: 04-01-2023**

INVITATION OF RATE QUOTATION FOR THE TREE CENSUS IN BBMP LIMITS

DCF(Forest Department), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites sealed competitive rate quotation for the tree census in BBMP limits of all the eight zones, the eligible bidder should quote the rate per tree census in the quotation, the rated quoted per tree census should include all the cost associated for the census as mentioned below and all other taxes and GST. The tree census should be complete within 6 months. The approximate tree to be censused is 85 lakhs to 100 lakhs. The eligible bidder should conduct tree census as follows:

Quotation for a tree

Sl. No.	Work item	Quoted rate/ per tree
1.	Carryout on site/field GPS GIS based enumeration of trees through app developed by BBMP and to provide various parameters and attributes of the trees with hard copies.	
2.	Should generate QR code for each tree by the bidder, QR codes should be printed on the aluminum plates, should be fixing/tag on tree.	

Events of Quotation Process: 1) Last date and time for submitting quotations to the office of DCF Forest Department, BBMP: **10.01.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.** 2) Address for Communication: Office of DCF, Forest, BBMP Room No. 4 & 5, Annex 3 Building, Ground Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.Contact No: 9480683047, e-mail: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com

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Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP

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ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಂ. ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಮ್‌ಸಿ/61/12/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04–01–2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ನಂ:–789 ದಿನಾಂಕ :–26–11–2022

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸನ್ **2022–23**ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಸಕರ ಅನುದಾನ **2020–21**ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅನುದಾನ, **2022–23**ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ವಾರು ಅನುದಾನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದೇಶ **1999–2000**ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ **2000** ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ **PWD** ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (SC) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ: (1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142628 ರೂ. 21.00ಲಕ್ಷ**
ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ: (2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **144364 ರೂ. 20.00ಲಕ್ಷ. (3)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **144426 ರೂ. 20.00ಲಕ್ಷ. (4)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **144204 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ. (5)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **144203 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ. (6)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **143380 ರೂ. 47.00ಲಕ್ಷ. (7)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142637 ರೂ. 15.00ಲಕ್ಷ. (8)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **144675 ರೂ. 65.00ಲಕ್ಷ. (9)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **144005 ರೂ. 87.00ಲಕ್ಷ**
ಮರು ಕರೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು: ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (SC) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ: (10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142607 ರೂ. 7.20ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (11)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142608 ರೂ. 7.20ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (12)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142657 ರೂ. 10.94ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (13)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142623 ರೂ. 5.45ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (14)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **141263 ರೂ. 50.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ).**
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ (ST) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ: (15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142699 ರೂ. 13.50ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (16)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142740 ರೂ. 7.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (17)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142662 ರೂ. 31.64ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (18)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142693 ರೂ. 15.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)**
ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ: (19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142609 ರೂ. 5.20ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (20)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **134079 ರೂ. 12.80ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (21)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142697 ರೂ. 8.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (22)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142713 ರೂ. 10.64ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (23)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142714 ರೂ. 7.76ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (24)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142716 ರೂ. 10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (25)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142629 ರೂ. 9.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (26)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142636 ರೂ. 13.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (27)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **141996 ರೂ. 26.80ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (28)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142610 ರೂ. 14.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (29)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142617 ರೂ. 23.70ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (30)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142618 ರೂ. 10.30ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (31)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142619 ರೂ. 8.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (32)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142654 ರೂ. 15.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (33)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142656 ರೂ. 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (34)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **142782 ರೂ. 12.69ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). (35)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **140317 ರೂ. 38.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). (36)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **140332 ರೂ. 46.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). (37)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ– **118031 ರೂ. 28.50ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ)**

ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ) ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಚೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**0836:2213834**ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **http:/www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–01–2023** ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ **02** ರಿಂದ **05**ರ ಹಾಗೂ **35** ರಿಂದ **37**ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17–01–2023** ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **3.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ **02** ರಿಂದ **05**ರ ಹಾಗೂ **35** ರಿಂದ **37**ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18–01–2023** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **3.30** ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01, 06 ರಿಂದ **34**ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23–01–2023** ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01, 06 ರಿಂದ **34**ರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24–01–2023** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.30** ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08 & 09ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **27–01–2023** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಂತರದ ಅನುಕೂಲಕರ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ)
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾ/935/2022–23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

Govt. of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat, Gadag)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag
No.PRED/GDG/PB-3/Tender/2022-23/3777 Date: 05-01-2023
Short Term E-Procurement Tender Notification Standard Bid Document KW-4 [Two Cover System]

Tenders are invited for the following 01 No. of works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Act-2000 Standard Bid Document KW- 4 Rules from eligible PWD contractors through e-Procurement Portal Under H/A: **2022-23 5054 Special grant** of Panchayat Raj Engineering Department can Participate through https://eproc. karnataka. gov.in The work Indent details are as shown below:
Indent Nos: **RDPR/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT: 98794,**
(Maximum Amount put to Tender is Rs. 150.00 lks)

The details of Tender Fees and EMD: Tender Fees and correspondence EMD details with respect to work indent details to be seen as per E-Procurement portal.

Date for Submission of filled in application and Schedule-B through website is: **06-01-2023 to 13-01-2023 ,Pre Bid meeting** Date:**12-01-2023** Date of opening of Technical Bid **: 16-01-2023** at 16:30 hrs and opening of Financial Bid :**18-01-2023 at** 16:30 hrs. Successful eligible bidders of the Financial Bid must personally visit the above office for the difference amount of P.S.D. amount in the form of F.D.R. (as per Rule No.13) within 20 days from the date of publishing of the tender. Since it is electronic system and paper less there is no communication through letters, More details can be had during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag
DIPR/Gadag/MCA/554/2022-23

Public Works Department
Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.
Invitation for Short-Term Tender (I.F.T.) No.: 19-2/2022-23, Date: 28.12.2022 (3rd Call)
(For Road Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 4 in two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in two cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **29.12.2022 to 27.01.2023 up to 4.00 pm. (1)** Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **18.01.2023 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **27.01.2023 (up to 4.00 pm). (3)** Date of opening Financial & Technical Bids: **30.01.2023 at 4.30 pm. (4)** Financial Bid will be opened after approval of Technical Bid. For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.
DIPR/Chikkaballapura/R.O. No.433/MCA/2022-23

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Assembly polls: Final electoral rolls published; 5.05 crore voters in State

This excludes the three constituencies where an inquiry into alleged voter data theft is on; a total of 57,338 polling stations have been identified in the 221 Assembly constituencies, says Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As per the revised final electoral rolls for 2023, published on Thursday, Karnataka has 5.05 crore voters, including 2.50 crore women and 4,502 in the others' category. This excludes the three constituencies where an inquiry into alleged voter data theft is on.

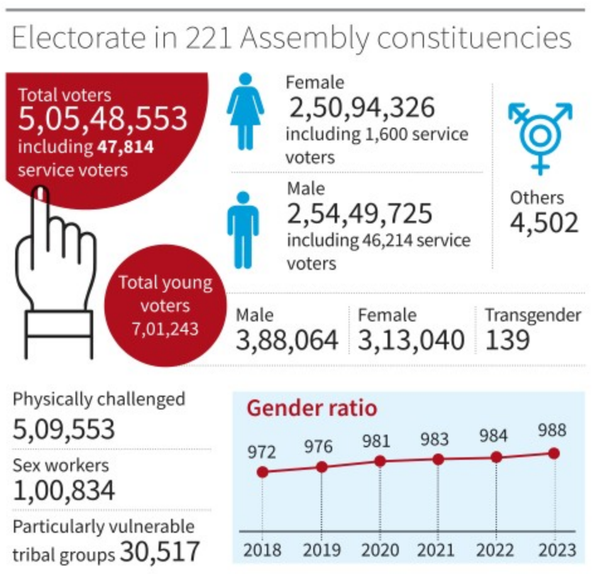
Giving details about the final rolls that have been published on Thursday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Meena told presspersons that the total number of voters have increased by 6.13 lakh in the 221 Assembly constituencies since the publication of the draft electoral rolls on November 9, 2022.

The final electoral rolls of the 221 constituencies have been published in the offices of the District Election Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and all polling stations for the information of the public. A total of 57,338 polling stations have been identified in the 221 Assembly constituencies, he said..

This time, the elector-population ratio of Karnataka (as per the final roll 2023) is 68.27%, which means for every 100 voters there are 68.27 voters, Mr. Meena said. "During the revision activities in the 221 Assembly constituencies, the names of voters detected under Photo Similar Entries, Demographically Similar Entries, Dead, Shifted, Absentee, etc. have been deleted for cleansing of the electoral rolls. The total number of voters (5.05 crore) published in the final rolls is after these deletions. This number includes 47,814 service voters," he added.

Giving details about the final rolls that were published on Thursday, CEO Manoj Kumar Meena told presspersons that the total number of voters have increased by 6.13 lakh in the Assembly constituencies. PTI

Among the 221 constituencies, Bengaluru South has the highest number of voters at 6,50,53 and Sringeri of Chikkamagaluru has the least number of voters at 1,66,521. As many as 12,31,540 voters have been added to the electoral rolls



Highest and lowest voters

Among the 221 Assembly constituencies, Bengaluru South has the highest number of voters at 6,50,53 and Sringeri of Chikkamagaluru district has the least number of voters at 1,66,521. Mr. Meena said as many as 12,31,540 voters have been added and 6,18,965 voters have been deleted from the electoral rolls. People can use Form 8 for inclusion, correction or deletion of names in the electoral rolls. People can enrol till ten days before the last day of filing nominations, he said.

Vulnerable tribal groups

He said a special drive has been conducted to enrol the particularly vulnerable tribal groups in the districts of Kodagu, Chamarajnagar, Mysuru, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. A total of 30,517 people from the tribal groups have been enrolled, he said.

Likewise, of the total 6.83 lakh eligible (above 18 years) physically challenged voters, 5.09 lakh have been enroled and marked for facilities that will be provided by the Commission on election day, he said.

Gender ratio

Women voters have outnumbered men voters in at least 17 electoral divisions out of the 34 in the State, according to the revised final electoral roll 2023 published on January 5.

Female registered voters are significantly higher than male voters in 17 divisions including Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, Ramanagaram, Ballari, Kodagu, Chamarajnagar and Shivamogga.

There has been a constant improvement in the gender ratio that has gone up from 958 (per 1,000 male) in the 2013 Assembly elections to 988 this year. It was 960 in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, 963 in 2015 final rolls, and 972 in the 2018 Assembly elections, 976 in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 981 in summary revision of 2020, 983 in 2021 and 984 in 2022 summary revision.

While Udupi has the highest gender ratio at 1074, Bengaluru Urban has the lowest at 914, according to the final electoral rolls 2023.

Voter data 'theft': Report expected by January 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The inquiry into the alleged voter data theft involving NGO Chilume, by Bengaluru Regional Commissioner Amlan Biswas, is expected to be completed by January 15.

The final rolls for the three Assembly constituencies – Shivajinagar, Chickpet, and Mahadevapura, where the alleged data theft took place – will be published on January 15, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena. The Election Commission of India (ECI) had extended the period of special summary revision of electoral rolls in these constituencies by 15 days to enable a thorough verification and invite more public objections. The ECI had asked the Karnataka CEO to ensure a 100% audit of the deletions and additions to the electoral rolls effected after January 1, 2022, in these constituencies. "All deletions and additions will be put up on the website with reasons," Mr. Meena said.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath released the final list of voters of 25 out of the 28 Assembly constituencies, excluding Mahadevapura, Shivajinagar and Chickpet Assembly constituencies.

From the last published draft voters list for 25 Assembly constituencies, the number of voters has increased from 81,48,989 to 82,29,375 in the final list. "Of them, 42,65,140 are male, 39,62,712 female, and 1,523 other voters," said BBMP commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

Young voters: 7.01 lakh enrolled in final electoral rolls in State

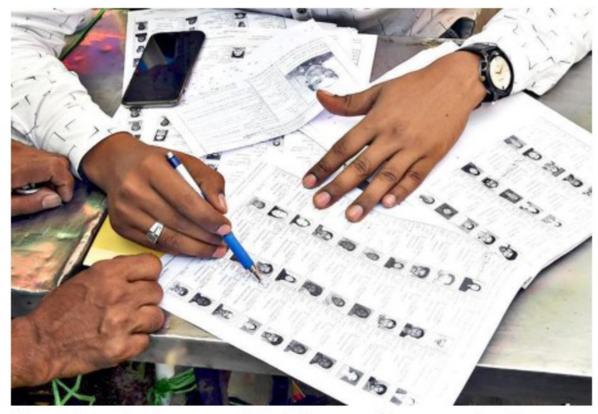
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 7.01 lakh young voters have registered themselves in 221 Assembly constituencies in Karnataka. "If we go by the 2004 live births data, 9.68 lakh births have been recorded and all these would have completed 18 years now. But, as of now, 7.01 lakh have been enrolled. We are stepping up measures to enrol the remaining two lakh youngsters," said Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena.

"Previously, during the annual revisions of electoral rolls, persons who have completed 18 years of age were only allowed to register themselves as voters. Now, youngsters who have crossed the age of 17 can submit applications in advance to get enroled. There are four qualifying dates in a year for enrolment – January 1, April 1, July 1 October 1.

Youngsters who have completed 17 years of age can submit an application for inclusion of their names in the electoral rolls," he said.

"So far, 25,299 advance applications for April 1, 2023 qualifying date from those in the 17 years and above age group have been received. When the age of the applicant crosses 18 years as on any one of the qualifying dates, necessary action will be initiated to process such applications as per rules," he explained.



Youngsters who have completed 17 years of age can submit an application for inclusion of their names in the electoral rolls. FILE PHOTO

Nearly 40 km of metro line will be operationalised this year, and it's expected to benefit lakhs of commuters. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

In Bengaluru, the number of vehicles has already crossed the one crore mark.

Experts say authorities must focus on improving public transport instead of expanding road network to accommodate new vehicles.

File photo of a cycle lane set up under the Bengaluru Smart City project.

Hopes of seamless transport in Bengaluru pinned on BMLTA

Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority — which will bring BMTC, BMRCL, traffic police, BBMP, and BDA under one umbrella — is expected to improve coordination and planning among different transport and infrastructure development agencies

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Much before starting commercial operations, the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal at Baiyappanahalli hit headlines for its "airport-like look' and "world class" amenities, including a centralized air-conditioned system. More than ₹300 crore was spent to build the terminal – which can handle over 50,000 passengers a day – in order to decongest other busy railway stations in Bengaluru.

Though the state-of-the-art facility has been operational for six months, connectivity remains a major concern. The approach roads won't be able to handle such big volumes once the terminal attains full operational capacity. The civic body's proposal to build a "rotary flyover" at a cost of ₹300 crore has remained on paper.

The authorities have been ridiculed for coming out with connectivity plans after completing and operationalizing the terminal instead of doing it in the conceptual stage.

Lack of proper integration

The lack of seamless access among different modes of travel is not new. The non-integration of the metro station and the railway station at Yeshwanthpur, as also the different modes of transport at Majestic are just two examples.

In one such case, after a gap of over three years, the Bangalore Development Authority recently resumed the work of adding more lanes to the Hebbal flyover. In 2019, the project was stalled after the BMRCL raised objections that construction of additional loops would come in the way of expansion of phase III, and integration of various modes of transport. The BDA then decided to redesign the project.

Land transport authority

Considering these issues, the State government decided to constitute the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) for the regulation of development, operation, maintenance, monitoring, and supervision of urban mobility within the Bengaluru metropolitan area.

"The National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), 2014, recommends that cities with a population of more than 10 lakh have Unified Metropolitan Planning Authority," said Manjula V., Commissioner, Directorate of Urban Land Transport.

The authority is headed by the Chief Minister, and will have 34 members, including two special invitees, and 10 non-official members, including the Transport Minister, Bengaluru in-charge Minister, heads of various departments, and others. Experts and citizen representatives are part of the authority, which will be aided by an executive committee headed by the chief secretary.

It will bring agencies, such as BMTC, BMRCL, traffic police, BBMP, and BDA under one umbrella. In the winter session, both the Houses of the Karnataka Legislature passed the BMLTA Bill, 2022. It states that the multiplicity of institutions, departments, and independent legislations, which they are bound to follow, are currently causing overlap in the responsibilities and functions, thereby impeding the process of streamlining and improving urban mobility.

> BMLTA has to look into aspects like an integrated platform to buy tickets for different modes of travel, and better route plans.
>
> **ALOKE MUKHERJEE**
> Senior associate, World Resources Institute

Aloke Mukherjee, senior associate of World Resources Institute, says, "Now, transportation and civic agencies are functioning autonomously. Most of the time, they do not have a clear picture on what other agencies are planning or how they are executing projects. When these institutions come under BMLTA, there will be better coordination and planning. BMLTA has to look into aspects like an integrated platform to buy tickets for different modes of travel, and better route plans, so that Namma Metro and BMTC services complement each other."

Expansion of metro network

BMLTA is being formed at a crucial time. This year, close to 40 km of metro line will be operationalized, covering areas like the two IT corridors: Whitefield and Electronics City. By 2025-26, phase II, and phase II A, and phase II B will be opened to the public. Opening of the ORR-Airport metro line is expected to decongest traffic.

Parallely, the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited – K-RIDE – has begun implementing the much-delayed 148 km Bengaluru suburban rail project. In the first phase, the K-RIDE is working on the Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara line.

Common ticketing system

With multiple modes of transport coming up, public transport systems have to complement each other. For years, Bengalureans have been demanding that BMRCL and BMTC integrate their ticketing systems. In the city, the metro has been operational since 2011, but both the agencies have failed to introduce an integrated platform.

Ashish Verma, convenor of IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, said, "The BMLTA should review all public transport projects to avoid confusion and chaos. Private vehicle use has been increasing, and authorities continue to expand road networks to accommodate more vehicles. Construction of more flyovers should be discouraged, and use of public transport system encouraged."

In the city, the vehicle population has already crossed the one crore mark.

Holistic planning

Manjula V., Commissioner, Directorate of Urban Land Transport., said, "The BMLTA Bill provides statutory powers to BMLTA for ensuring holistic planning for mobility through preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan, City Mobility Investment Programme, Annual Implementation Plan etc.; integration of land use and transport planning; funding through Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Fund to agencies for mobility related projects."

BMRCL Managing Director Anjum Parwez said, "Constitution of BMLTA will address issues ranging from traffic to clearing transport projects. Deliberations on issues pertaining to transport system, policy issues, and others will help achieving better coordination."

Main objectives of BMLTA

- Promote mobility through sustainable urban transport, and integration of land use and transport planning
- Review and approve City Mobility Investment Programme prepared in accordance with Comprehensive Mobility Plan
- Put in place frameworks and regulations for effective coordination among transport and infrastructure development agencies
- Assign development, construction, repair, operation, and management of urban mobility facilities
- Adopt standards and guidelines issued by State government, Central government and various agencies
- Establish fully operable monitoring, verification, reporting, and evaluation framework for implementation of mobility-related policies
- Establish appropriate frameworks for engagement of private sector in planning, development, and management of mobility, and effective contract execution by agencies
- Prepare norms for implementing projects on public private partnership or through other financing mechanisms
- Planning and implementing measures such as congestion pricing, parking regulations, toll, and special purpose lanes
- Develop frameworks for financial arrangements between urban mobility agencies project implementation, and management of transport networks

Can BMLTA help resolve ever-growing traffic woes?

GUEST COLUMN

Ashwin Mahesh

After more than a decade of demands from interested citizens and nudging by transportation experts, the government has passed the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Bill. With this, different transport functions in the city will all be brought under the aegis of the BMLTA. The legislation explicitly calls out regulation, operations, maintenance, monitoring and supervision.

Such integrated authorities exist in other large cities around the world, notably in London. Its institution, Transport for London, has acquired quite a reputation around the world for its many initiatives to improve mobility. Not all of those have succeeded, and there have been occasional reversals of policy too, but on the whole, the idea that there should be a single institution looking at all modes of mobility has endured.

What can we expect from BMLTA? Most of the power to steer mobility in the city already rested with different departments of the Karnataka government. The players and the jobs, thus, are not new. What is new is that BMLTA could bring coherence to the things that each of the different departments, until now, did without consulting the others.

Was this new law needed? The Chief Minister could easily have directed such integration between the departments, and brought about the necessary coherence. Until about four or five years ago, such meetings did take place from time to time but those stopped for no apparent reason. Perhaps, the instinctive preference of the departments is to do their own things, and therefore it's useful to have a law that forces them to come together.

Expectations

The government could have learned from the recent lessons of some other world cities and gone a step further. Rather than a Land Transport Authority, it should have envisaged a Land and Transport Authority. This difference in wording is small, but the impact would be significant. The way we use land in the city needs to be co-imagined with mobility. As things stand now, however, I suspect that BDA officials will simply attend BMLTA meetings and say a few things when called upon, but their land use planning work will continue as before.

The big question, however, is whether we can expect different outcomes from this empowered authority. It is obvious that mobility in the city is difficult, and that many agencies have failed in their respective roles. What can we expect by bringing together people and institutions that are now failing separately? Could they simply end up failing together instead?

Role of the State govt.

We have become so used to the CM and other ministers dominating the political conversation about Bengaluru that we can easily forget what is in the Constitution and the laws of the State. As per those texts, metropolitan planning is not the job of the State government. It is the job of a separate planning body, constituted by elected representation and expertise from the local councils in the region. Transport for London works because it is not run by the British government but by the Greater London Authority. Also, the GLA has overall responsibility for planning most other things in that city. States, however, are reluctant to let go of their powers over land in their capital regions. There is now a political economy around land which dominates the real economy. Fixing it requires more than administrative changes; it can only be done by dismantling the dubious politics first.

We should not be optimistic that the government will do anything different as a result of having enacted this law. At least not until we see signs of a new positive direction. Until then, all we can hope for is that this law will make it easier for citizens to be vigilant about mobility choices in the city. Tracking and nudging a single institution that statutorily controls several functions should be easier than keeping an eye on each department separately. And it should be easier for us to put proposals forward to BMLTA for consideration.

(The author is an urban development expert.)

SSSSHHH! BOOKS AT WORK

Most book clubs require reading suggested titles or genres or participating in literary activities. However, that is not the case with the Silent Book Club. The entire purpose of this club is to inculcate a love for reading and so, as its name suggests, members get together to sit and read whatever they have brought along.

"Most sessions last for about 45 minutes after which there's a 15-minute period for anyone to share what they've read if they wish to," says Anand Chaturvedi, founder, Avasar Foundation that runs the Silent Book Club. "We disperse after that. There is no pressure to complete a book. It's an opportunity to come together and motivate each other to read. It also helps those who are inherently shy by creating a safe environment to read and speak in public at their own pace. "

Begun in November 2019, the Silent Club did not allow the ensuing lockdown to get in the way of their reading time together. They simply logged into a Zoom call and read from the confines of their homes.

There is no membership fee to join the Silent Book Club whose members usually meet once a week or online, every Saturday. Readers in the Whitefield area can drop in to the Avasar Foundation, Seegehalli in Kadugodi. To join, log in to forms.gle/okcFTUDn1noHZZnv7

LET THE MAGIC BEGIN

This is a 12-year-old group, which meets on the first Sunday of every month at Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar. Sonali Bhatia, the founder says, "We discuss various aspects of Harry Potter, based on the seven books, that can be applied to our life today. For instance, our last discussion was parenting in Harry Potter and its effects on the characters. These sessions are open to anyone aged 12 years and above. "The only criteria is that they should have read all the seven books of Harry Potter." Sonali says the sessions include debates, quiz and activities. Fee per session is ₹150. Call Lahe Lahe to connect with Bangalore Potterheads.

MORE THAN MONOPOLY

Karthik Balakrishnan, a software engineer, started a board game community called Reroll in 2016. They meet every Thursday ever since. If you think they just sit around playing Monolopy or Scrabble, think twice. Karthik says they play board games that not many would have heard of. "We have a collection of 250 board games including Ticket To Ride or Carcus On, with each session being three hours long." You can walk in alone or with friends, form a team and start playing.
To join, visit reroll.in

THE LAND OF ARTS

Started by Bharatanatyam dancer, Veena C Sheshadri, Kalasampada is a dance school in RR Nagar that teaches *mridanga* and Carnatic vocals. The aim, says Veena, is to use performing arts to help people imbibe Indian culture and become art connoisseurs. It is open to anyone from ages six to 80. Besides the theoretical aspect of classical performing arts, they also use traditional puppet shows and music to teach. Veena believes to get through art and life one needs the four D's – discipline, determination, dedication and devotion.
To join, visit veena kalasampada.com or contact 9901830830

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

From books to board games, we offer you a variety of activities you can get into at the beginning of the year

Praveen Sudevan, Ruth Dhanaraj and Shilpa Anandraj

ALPHABET COUP

Did you know a professional Scrabble board could cost close to ₹8,000? Well, there is far more to the game than just triple letter scores.

What used to be the Bangalore Scrabble Club, is now the Karnataka State Scrabble Association (KSSA) that conducts tournaments, quizzes and other activities, both online and offline on a regular basis. "We also hold coaching sessions for those learning how to play Scrabble," says Suchindra Potnis, committee member, KSSA.

Club members include people of all ages, from all walks of life – professionals, homemakers, students, retirees – who renew their subscription of ₹1,000 annually.

For more information on the club or the upcoming KSSA Indian Open Tournament (January 26-29), log on scrabblekssa.wordpress.com

BONDING THROUGH BIKES

When Vidya Chandran started cycling, there were not many female riders in Bengaluru. She often rode with the boys. Around early 2018, she started receiving requests from other women to join her rides. They all lived in different directions. It was difficult for Vidya to accompany them all. So, she created a WhatsApp group to coordinate all-women rides across the city. The group, now called SpokesWomen, has about 350 members of all ages. It also has an Instagram page with over 1,500 followers. Apart from organising rides in and around, the riding community also puts together annual events like treasure hunts and garage sales. This year, it is also planning outstation training camps for beginners and experienced riders of the group.

Open to all women; no fee. To join, DM the spokes_women Instagram page.

SAVOUR THE VERSE

In his unpoetically titled essay, *How to Enjoy Poetry*, poet James Dickey says: "When you really feel it, a new part of you happens, or an old part is renewed, with surprise and delight at being what it is." For this purpose, poetry clubs have existed, and hopefully will exist. The Write Out Loud intimate poetry sessions, which happen every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Lahe Lahe, are occasions to discover, enjoy, and celebrate poems of all languages.

Fee: ₹150 per session, open to all. To join, contact Lahe Lahe: 9886294444

BIG BOYS AND SMALL CARS

Like Andy from the *Toy Story* series, Aditya Menon, too, grew out of his toys post-boyhood. A few years ago, he happened to revisit his little cars which took him back to boyhood. He found fellow admirers of car models and thus, the Beantown Car Model Collectors Club was born in 2017. It now has 26 members – all adults who take their miniature models seriously. The club has a combined collection of over 10,000 scale models of cars, bikes, aeroplanes, locomotives, ships and diorama sets. Apart from the regular meetups, it also brings out a quarterly magazine, *The Beantowner*.

Membership fee: ₹7,500. Open to people over 18. To join, write to them at contactus@bmcclub.in

CINEMA THERAPY

Four years ago, Shraddha Modi, a psychologist and special educator, wanted to organise an event for the World Mental Health Day (October 10). A relative suggested the idea of discussing mental health through films. Shraddha found it interesting. She screened a Chinese film, *Ocean Heaven* (starring Jet Li), which dealt with autism. More than 20 people turned up for the event and the discussion exceeded Shraddha's expectations. Overwhelmed by the response, she decided to make it a monthly event and called it Mindful Cinema. Movies, she says, help people connect with these topics and make it easier to understand. The sessions also double up as a safe space to share their own mental health stories.

Fee: ₹200. To join, DM the mind_ful_cinema Instagram page.

Sound heritage

The soon-to-reopen Manchester Museum, a repository of all things South Asian, has a section exclusively dedicated to music

Fresh perspective The soon to re-open Manchester Museum in the United Kingdom. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
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History is recounted from the victor's point of view, with most museums pandering to that narrative by housing a collection of objects bound by a common thread in time. What if, however, there was a museum to showcase the true life histories of people, warts and all?

The Manchester Museum in the United Kingdom aims to do just that with their South Asia Gallery Collective, which celebrates the contributions of the South Asian community in the UK, as part of a landmark partnership with British Museum. Music is among the many chapters the Collective delves into and with regard to this, two artistes from the UK, Aziz Ibrahim Aziz and Balraj Samrai were recently in India for the RhythmXchange project, collaborating with musicians at the Indian Musical Experience in Bengaluru.

"In England, I'm labelled British, Pakistani, Muslim by people who want to categorise me," says Aziz Ibrahim Aziz, a singer, guitarist, composer and audio designer. "I'm a hybrid living two identities – the Punjabi life I have at home and the other of working and socialising in Western society." Aziz is also a co-curator for the music and dance anthology of the the South Asia Gallery.

Elaborating on how the Manchester Museum has been set up, Aziz says, "We are an entourage of co-curators from different walks of life – musicians, artists, scientists and teachers – who import our perspectives to the museum. When you present personal stories and perspectives, that puts a touch of humanity into the exhibits."

Movement and Empire, and Lived Environments are two of the Museum's many themes, which includes sections on Innovation and Language, Sound, Music and Dance, and British Asian. "Whether via occupation, migration, colonialism, slavery or indentureship, the diaspora is very wide, with interesting and sometimes, traumatic stories within that movement," says Balraj Samrai, who is a music producer, DJ and teacher.

Having struggled with notions of identity and acceptance themselves, both Aziz and Balraj understand the uphill struggle faced by non-Caucasian artistes.

While resilience is required to face public abuse and adversity makes you stronger, what aids the creative process is respect, adds Balraj.

Music is a by-product of this amalgamation from different countries and cultures. "The Museum showcases how music has played a part in shaping the culture of the United Kingdom. The aim is to make it accessible, inclusive, and inviting for all who are interested in exploring their roots and identity," says Aziz.

The Manchester Museum is scheduled to re-open on February 18, 2023.

The road not taken

Author Kuzhali Manickavel on her third collection of short fiction, *Conversations Regarding the Fatalistic Outlook of the Common Man*

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

Kuzhali Manickavel writes like a dream. These are not mere words of admiration for her writing; most of her stories actually resemble a dream – absurd, surreal, fantastic, with no protagonist, beginning or end. Kuzhali can either be frustrating or fascinating, depending on the reader's taste for – for lack of a better label – unconventional fiction.

Explaining her unconventional writing style, she says, "I guess I don't think life moves in a conventional way; there is no plot, no clear beginning or ending to anything. Things don't stick to a specific narrative; terrible things happen and there's no closure. Characters come and go for no reason. Weird things happen and no one is there to explain them to you. I don't feel that's a bad thing though."

Kuzhali, based in Bengaluru, is unapologetic about the absurdity – it begins with the book title. After *Insects...* (in 2008) she published her second short fiction, *Things We Found During The Autopsy* in 2014. Her third book, yet another anthology published by Blaft Publications, is called *Conversations Regarding the Fatalistic Outlook of the Common Man*. Excerpts from an interview:

Write word Kuzhali Manickavel. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Question: *How did you choose the title for your latest book?*
Answer: It was taken from the Civics sections of one of the Tamil Nadu State Board textbooks from the Nineties. One of the reasons for the population explosion was given as the fatalistic outlook of the common man. Which is hilarious but also, seems very relevant to many aspects of life.

Q: *Do you sometimes worry if your writing can seem incomprehensible to some people?*
A: At the end of the day, I'm writing what I like, and what makes sense to me, so I can't expect it to speak to everyone else in the same way. If you have made that choice with your writing, it helps to be realistic about what that means. While it's great to be able to write something that really speaks to you, there is going to be the usual criticism that comes with that, and you can't expect all the nice things that come along with more conventional forms and approaches to writing.

Q: *Despite your unconventional style, a lot of people read your work. What is the most relatable thing about your writing?*
A: I think when you write something that isn't easy to pin down, it makes it easier to understand it in different ways, there are spaces and layers which allow you to interpret things in your own way. It's interesting when a piece of work can speak differently to different people, or if one person sees it differently each time they read it.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
Grand Flea Market
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru
Date: 6th Jan 2023, Friday
to
15th Jan 2023, Sunday
Timing: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
STARTS TODAY
Entry Free!
Art & Craft | Handicraft | Clothing
Fashion Accessories | Home Decor & More
FOOD
(10 Days Exhibition)
100+ Stalls
Sankranti Shopping Carnival | Also Open on all Sunday's
Visit & Shop For 100+ Stalls | Live Performance | Much More..!
Home Decors | Handmade Paintings | Lampshades | Ceramic Pots |Handlooms & Handicrafts | Curtains | Carpets | Mats | Bags | Khadi Kurtas | Silks Saree | Sarees | Designer Kurtis | Bandhani Bedsheets | Designer Jewelry | Handmade Jewelry | Toys | Pots & Much more...
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INBRIEF

BJP is a factory of lies, says Siddaramaiah

The former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday called RSS and BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "factory of lies".

The Congress leader told reporters here that Mr. Modi and Mr. Bommai provided only false promises during elections to woo voters and the party would come to power only through the backdoor. Earlier, he had said that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was like "a puppy before Prime Minister Narendra Modi" for his alleged failure to bring ₹5,495 crore to the State as was recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. Many Ministers had reacted strongly to it and Excise Minister K. Gopalaiah suggested it was better on the part of the Congress leader to retire from politics since he had already crossed 75 years of age.

Hampi, Mysuru included in Swadesh Darshan scheme

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai described as "a moment of pride for Karnataka" the enlisting Hampi and Mysuru in the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, a Central sector scheme launched in 2014-15 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

The scheme aims to promote, develop, and harness the potential of tourism and integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.

Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State government for the infrastructure development of circuits.

The scheme is envisioned to synergise with other schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, and Make in India with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, the driving force for economic growth, and building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

Amid voices of dissent, stage set for a grand Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in Chief Minister's home district

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Amid voices of dissent and a few exits, the stage is set for the 86th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, beginning in Haveri from Friday, which promises to be a grand affair in the home district of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

While critics are of the opinion that there is more focus on making it a "spectacle" rather than on real issues of language, livelihood, and culture, the organisers defended it saying that it is necessary as it is a "celebration of Kannada". Among the highlights, Sammelanadhyaksha Doddarange Gowda is going to be ferried to the venue in a grand chariot for which ₹4 lakh has been spent and hundreds of folk troupes will join the cultural procession.

Kannada Ratha, which traversed the districts of Karnataka before reaching Haveri, was given a grand welcome on Thursday. SANJAY RITTI

President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) and former bureaucrat Mahesh Joshi has been saying that it would be a grand spectacle indeed, but also clarified that equal attention has been paid to choosing the subjects for the literary sessions and the resource persons. He has also claimed that representation has been given to "every section and every voice".

However, some writers, who have alleged that selection has been partisan, excluding women and Muslim writers from key sessions, have withdrawn from participating in the mega literary event as a mark of dissent.

> We need to ensure primacy to Kannada in Karnataka. We are suffering from an illusion that only English will ensure a good life and livelihood. But France, Germany, Japan, and several other countries are economic powerhouses without the aid of English. Kannada is equipped to be used in all areas. We need to ensure primary education happens only in Kannada medium. We need to create an environment where Kannadigas get all services, including in banks and Railways, in Kannada.
>
> **DODDARANGE GOWDA,**
> poet and Haveri sammelana president

Soon after the schedule of various literary sessions was published, H.R. Sujatha, who was supposed to chair one of the poetry meets at the sammealana, announced that she would not participate. In her letter of dissent, she said that she could see "deliberate exclusion of Muslim writers on the panels". Chand Pasha N.S., who was among the few Muslim writers on the panels, also announced his decision to boycott the event. He said the parishat was discriminating against writers based on religion, caste, and gender that too in Haveri, known as the land of Shishunala Sharif and Kanakadasa. Another poet Ramesh Aroli too has decided to stay away from the sammelana. Amid these developments, an alternative Jana Sahitya Sammelana is being held on January 8 by progressive groups as a mark of dissent.

Meanwhile, those who are participating in the event want the sammelana to provide a stage for discussion on pressing issues faced by the people of Karnataka.

Elections: BJP takes regional-specific route to build tempo

Nadda begins two-day visit to Central Karnataka; on day one, he visited a slew of prominent mutts in the region

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP seems to be adopting a regional-specific approach in building a tempo for the Assembly election preparations, as its national president J.P. Nadda arrived in the State on Thursday on a two-day visit to the Central Karnataka region, close on the heels of party's key strategist Amit Shah sounding the poll bugle from the Old Mysore region.

BJP president J.P. Nadda with party State unit chief Nalin Kumar Kateel and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra at a party convention in Tumakuru on Thursday. ANI

While Mr. Shah indicated the party's efforts to make inroads into the Vokkaliga-dominated areas in Old Mysore region, Mr. Nadda went straight to the central region that has a dominant presence of Lingayats besides comprising a sizeable chunk of OBCs and Dalits to send a message that the party is keen to consolidate its hold on the region.

He also paid a visit to a slew of prominent mutts in the region, including Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru, Madara Channayya Mutt in Chitradurga, Bhovi Gurupeetha, and Taralabalu Mutt at Sirigere and interacted with their heads.

Mr. Nadda, who addressed separate conventions of party leaders from Tumakuru and Madhugiri as well as OBC and Dalit leaders in Chitradurga, highlighted the party government's decision taken in Karnataka to increase reservation for SC and ST communities and reclassification of Panchamasali Lingayats and Vokkaligas in the OBC reservation matrix.

He urged the party workers to create public awareness about such decisions of the government along with the achievements of Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

Mr. Nadda, whose State visit coincides with the party's 'Booth Vijaya' campaign, during which its cadre is focussing on micro-management issues at the booth level such as the formation of (voters' list) page committees and page pramukhs, asked the leaders to ensure that the booth committees and page committees were represented by people of all communities, castes, and classes, particularly Dalits. Mr. Nadda will tour Davangere district on Friday before returning to Delhi.

We respect all CMs: Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Thursday took serious exception to Congress leader Siddaramaiah's remarks that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai behaves "like a puppy" in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah is trying to lower the dignity of State politics through such remarks," Mr. Nadda told a public meeting in Tumakuru. "We believe in cooperative federalism. We respect not just our own Chief Minister, but all Chief Ministers," he said.

Not happy with govt.'s promise, Panchamasali seer says stir will continue

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Panchamasali reservation agitation committee has rejected the State government's offer of including the community in the new 2D category under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list, committee honorary president Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami said in Belagavi on Thursday.

Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami FILE PHOTO

"We stick to our demand for inclusion in the 2A category. We will continue our agitation,'' he told journalists after the State-level executive committee meeting. To a query, he said he would accept the new rearrangement of categories only if the benefits were the same as in the 2A category.

Earlier, he told the members that the offer should be rejected as it was "full of confusion". "The Chief Minister and the Ministers are making differing statements and they are not giving us clarity on what the Panchamasali community will get if we are included in the 2D category. On the last day of the legislature session, we asked them to issue an order about the reservation and give us assurances in writing. That was not done," he said.

"We demand that the Chief Minister announce our inclusion in the 2A category in 24 hours. It should be published in the gazette before January 12. Otherwise, we will protest before the CM's residence,'' the seer said. The seer said details of the protest would be announced in Haveri on January 13.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal said some leaders of his own party and Ministers were the reasons behind the State government not announcing the 2A reservation for Panchamasalis.

"I have credible information that a Minister took BJP national president J.P. Nadda to the Harihar Panchamasali peetha and convinced him that there was no need to hurry on the issue. And that is why the State government has put off the decision... We do not accept the offer of including our community in 2D. We need 2A category reservation and we will not accept any other reclassification,'' Mr. Yatnal said. "I used to tell Mr. Bommai in private that if he does not grant us this reservation facility, the BJP will suffer electorally. From today, I will say that in the open," said Mr. Yatnal.

HC: Money laundering case cannot continue if predicate offence proceedings are stayed

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

If the proceedings in the predicate offence are stayed by a court, then the linked proceedings for alleged money laundering, initiated based on the predicate offence, also cannot be allowed to continue till the court permits continuation of proceedings in the predicate offence, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"If the allegations in the predicate offences are considered to be the flesh, the offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is the blood, they are impregnable," and therefore, if the predicate offences are not permitted to move forward, the proceedings under the PMLA also cannot, the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while partly allowing a petition filed by C. Uma Reddy, Kavveri Telecom Products Ltd., and others. The petitioners had questioned the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) August 2022 order of provisionally attaching several of their assets.

CBI charge sheet

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had filed charge sheet against the petitioners and their companies after investigating the complaint lodged by Dena Bank in 2017 alleging that they availed of loan from the bank and diverted it for purposes other than for which loan was granted. Later, the ED had initiated a separate proceedings against them for alleged money laundering.

However, the High Court, in a separate petition filed by them, in 2020 stayed the cognisance of offence taken by a trial court based on the CBI's charge sheet, and the ED in 2022 had provisionally attached their assets.

The High Court has now said though the provisional attachment order passed by the ED is strictly as per the law but the ED cannot continue further proceedings and the provisional attachment has to be kept in abeyance till the disposal of petitioners' other petition, in which the High Court had passed an interim order staying the cognisance of offences taken against them by the trial court.

Meanwhile, the High Court made it clear that keeping provisional attachment in abeyance would mean that the properties subject to attachment cannot be released in favour of the petitioners nor can they be confirmed or sold by the ED.

'PF Near You' on January 10

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation is organising 'PF Near You', a grievance redressal programme, on January 10. It will be held at the Office of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, No. 13, Raja Ram Mohun Roy Road, Bengaluru, for subscribers, members, pensioners, employers, and exempted establishments coming under the jurisdiction of Regional Office, Bengaluru (Central). 'PF Near You' will be held for subscribers from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; employers from 3 p.m. and for exempted establishments from 4 p.m.

Applications invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Applications have been invited for the post of Project Director at Balakarmika Yojana Sangha, Bengaluru Urban district, on a temporary basis with a monthly honorarium.

Candidates with MA in Sociology and MSW with five years' experience and aged not over 40 are eligible. For details, call Ph.: 9535405935.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **Smt NOOR AYESHA BEGUM and NIYAZ AHMED** intends to Purchase the Schedule property from present Owners Nasim Ahamed Delvi and Smt Ruhi Delvi, mentioned the Schedule property vide Agreement of Sale dated-08-11-2022.

All persons claiming an interest in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, change lien, trust, possession, loan attachment, any claim. Objection for the proposed transaction of sale may be lodged with the undersigned within **7 days** from this date, falling which it shall be presumed that no body has got any claim over the above said property and my clients may proceed d to finalize the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property bearing Muncipal No-16, PID No-16-14-16, Situated at the Layout formed by the KHB Co-operative Society Ltd, in Sy No-184, 185, 186 and 38 of Laggere Village, Yashawanthpura, HBCS, BBMP Old Ward No-16, New Ward No-75, Bangalore,

East by: Site No-15, **West by:** Stie No-17, **North by:** Road, **South by:** VGN Layout, measuring East to West-40 Feet, and North to South-60 Feet, totally 2400 sq feet.

JAGANNATH. S, M.A, LL.B
Advocate,
1, A.M.Complex, L.R.Bande Bus Stop, Shampura, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore-32,
Mobile: 9663504176

Place: Bangalore
Date: 06-01-2023

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI

No/CCB/PWD/EE/DM/TND/E-proc-20/2022-23 Dated:-04-01-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT)

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 through E-procurement as per Standard Tender Documents for the works approved under Corproation fund & Swatch Bharat Mission, total 07 no's of work tender is called. The last date for the submission of tender is 13-01-2023. For more details visit online website (https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Any Addendum/Corrigendum will be published in e-procurement portal only

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1494/MCA/2022-23

Sd/-Commissioner
City Corporation Belagavi

Govt of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWP?IWTD/KD/TS-2/Tender Notification/2022-23/ 7536 Date:04.01.2023

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION

Sub:Extension of Time of Tender

Ref: This Office tender notification No:EE/PWD&IWTD/KD/TS-2/Tender Notification/2022-23/ No 6992 Dt: 17.12.2022.

Under this Office NIT cited above, the calender of events for the indent no(162382, 162422, 162423, 162424,162426,162427,162428,162429,162431). are extended. are as follows

1) Last date for queries : 17.01.2023 (17.30 Hrs). 2) Last date for Submission of tender :18.01.2023 (16.00 Hrs). 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 19.01.2023 (16.30 Hrs). 4) Date of opening of Financial Bid : 23.01.2023 (11.30 Hrs)

DIP/Kalaburagi/1067/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Kalaburagi

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Sri A. Ramamurthy
17-11-1930 – 29-12-2022

We regret to inform that Sri A. Ramamurthy left for heavenly abode on Thursday, 29th Dec 2022.

Obsequies Ceremony on Sunday 8th Jan 2023 Time 9:30AM at RBANMS Charities, St Johns Road, Bangalore – 38 followed by lunch at Residence in Indiranagar.

Mr R. Shivakumar
Mob: 7760879432

Grieving Brothers, Sons, Daughters, Sons-In-law, Daughters-In-Law, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

DEATH

Padmalochana Nagarajan
(Bharatanatyam artist and Carnatic vocalist)
w/o Dr. K Nagarajan (Bengaluru)
Passed away on 31-12-2022
In grief:
Dr. K Nagarajan, Shobhana Sridharan, N Srivatsan and families
Ph: 9886713958/8792412754

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

K.N. VISWANATHA PILLAI
DOB: 22.06.1947 - DOD: 06.01.2022
Remembered by Family & Friends
Mob: 97890 68116

INBRIEF

Six killed in accident while heading to Belagavi temple

Six people were killed and 16 injured in a road accident at Chinchanur village in Belagavi district of Karnataka. They were going from Hulkund village to the Saundatti Yallamma temple in the district. The injured are being treated in a hospital. They were in a vehicle that hit a roadside tree at night. Five persons were killed on the spot, and one died on the way to hospital. Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Patil went to the spot. He oversaw shifting of the injured to a hospital and clearing the debris. Govind Karjol, district in-charge Minister, said, "I have been instructed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to announce a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the family of each of the deceased. The State government will bear the cost of treatment of all the injured persons."

'No constitutional protection for staff taking part in strike'

Kerala HC says no State government employee has the legal right to call for a general strike; petition moved to declare national strike held on March 28 and 29, 2022, as unconstitutional

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has reiterated that no State government employee, worker, or association has the legal right to call for a general strike or instigate the employees to strike, in the guise of the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution.

A Division Bench of the court comprising Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Shaji P. Chaly recapitulated its earlier position on the strike by government employees in a petition moved by S. Chandrachooden Nair of Thiruvananthapuram to declare the two-day national strike held on March 28 and 29, 2022 as unconstitutional.

Disrupting normalcy: A file photo of KSRTC buses parked inside the Ernakulam bus stand due to strike.

The court made it clear that the provisions of Kerala Service Rules, as well as the notifications issued by the State government, had concluded that the participation of any government employee in a strike, in violation of the provisions of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1960, affecting the normal life of the public and public exchequer, was not protected by the Constitution.

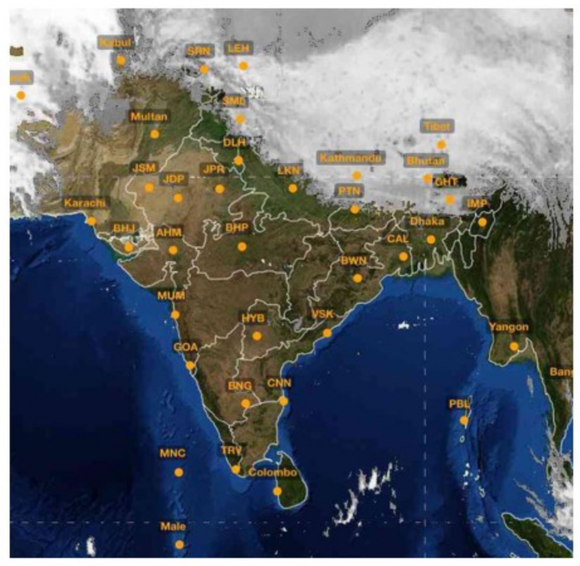
The State informed the court that 1,72,668 employees boycotted on March 28 and 1,62,354 on March 29. There are 4,65,867 employees in the government service.

The salary of 1,68,598 employees was withheld for striking work on March 28 and that of 1,29,209 employees on March 29. The State also said that disciplinary action was taken against 24 employees, who were absent on March 28 and against four for being absent on March 29.

The court took note of the government statement on the steps taken against the workers who had participated in the strike.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Cold wave/severe cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over northwest Rajasthan, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh and north Madhya Pradesh. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	16.9	13.0	Kozhikode	—	34.8	22.7
Ahmedabad	—	23.6	10.0	Kurnool	—	31.5	19.5
Aizawl	—	—	7.6	Lucknow	—	15.8	6.0
Allahabad	—	11.0	5.2	Madurai	—	32.8	20.6
Bengaluru	—	25.0	16.8	Mangaluru	—	33.0	21.4
Bhopal	—	17.0	7.4	Mumbai	—	32.0	18.8
Bhubaneswar	—	26.2	15.8	Mysuru	—	30.2	15.0
Chandigarh	—	11.0	6.4	New Delhi	—	16.5	3.0
Chennai	—	30.4	25.1	Patna	—	13.4	10.4
Coimbatore	—	30.0	20.0	Port Blair	—	31.2	25.7
Dehradun	—	21.9	4.6	Puducherry	—	31.0	20.3
Gangtok	—	14.0	5.4	Pune	—	29.1	17.2
Goa	—	32.3	20.6	Raipur	3	25.2	15.2
Guwahati	—	26.8	10.5	Ranchi	—	21.0	10.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	17.0	Shillong	—	17.3	5.5
Hyderabad	—	27.4	19.9	Shimla	—	15.7	3.7
Imphal	—	23.6	5.5	Srinagar	—	11.0	-6.4
Jaipur	—	19.8	3.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.2	21.8
Kochi	—	31.2	22.8	Tiruchi	—	30.1	21.0
Kohima	—	18.6	6.0	Vijayawada	—	28.6	22.0
Kolkata	—	22.0	11.8	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	24.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.29	.65	.61	...103	...110	
Bengaluru	.10	.37	.21	...126	...113	
Chennai	.22	.45	.38	...116	95	
Delhi	.23	..—	104	...424	...397	
Hyderabad	...2	.48	.39	...162	...140	
Kolkata	.10	.25	.40	...301	...153	
Lucknow	...9	.29	.81	...269	...180	
Mumbai	.74	101	.26	...325	...200	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	.12	.29	.63	...245	...148	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 383 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Advertisements on buses: SC tries to balance the issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it is inclined to protect the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), which has challenged a High Court directive to remove advertisements featured on its buses.

A Bench led by Justice Surya Kant, however, asked the corporation to come out with a proposal which may allow it to retain advertisements on its buses but at the same time avoid endangering the lives of passengers by blocking windows or windshields or being a source of distraction for other vehicle drivers.

"We are tentatively inclined to protect you... You also come out with the proposal. Ultimately, we will ask the High Court to consider the proposal. We will try to balance the issue," Justice Kant addressed senior advocate V. Giri, appearing for the corporation.

Mr. Giri said the advertisements were a means to boost the revenue of the corporation, which is in ₹9,000-crore debt. The advertisements earn the corporation a monthly revenue of ₹1.5 crore.

Safety concerns: A file photo of a bus with a movie advertisement.

The Sabarimala season was on and the KSRTC would require more buses to ply the pilgrims. It could hardly be expected at the peak of the Sabarimala season to go in search of buses without commercial endorsements.

The KSRTC argued: "Over 70,000 to one lakh pilgrims are visiting the Sabarimala temple daily and the petitioner, being the only State-owned transport corporation, is responsible for providing the essential bus services to the general public, which is currently being hampered owing to the operations of the order."

"What are these advertisements you are displaying on your buses," Justice Kant asked Mr. Giri.

"They would be about commercial products like hair oil and toothpaste. The advertisements are not displayed in a manner to distract anyone. The KSRTC cannot do it, we are a statutory organisation," Mr. Giri submitted.

The court referred to an instance where a contract carriage bus was found to be carrying schoolchildren while LED lights on it dazzled other drivers on the road and graphics covered every part of its body.

The court posted the hearing of the case to Monday.

Crime Branch to investigate filmmaker Nayana's death

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Crime Branch will take over the investigation into the death of young filmmaker Nayana Surya under mysterious circumstances four years ago.

The move comes against the backdrop of demands made by Nayana's friends to revive the probe in light of certain findings in the post-mortem examination report that suggested the possibility of murder.

Nayana, 28, was found dead in a rented house at Althara, near Vellayambalam, on February 24, 2019. While the Museum police had registered a case of unnatural death, they ruled out any foul play. The police had rested its theory on the absence of any forceful entry into the house with both the building and the bedroom she was found in to be locked from within.

Winged visitors

Feast for the eyes: After a hiatus of four years, pelicans have returned to the Ameenpur Lake in Hyderabad on Thursday, providing a visual treat for tourists. NAGARA GOPAL

Tirupati to have largest liquid waste treatment plant

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

The Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) is set to take a giant leap in water treatment by putting in place what is claimed to be the country's largest liquid waste treatment plant to use phytorid technology.

The plant coming up next to Vinayaka Sagar will treat 5 MLD (million litres a day). Sewage from the MCT's seven adjoining divisions used to flow into the waterbody in the past, by way of gravity. With the advent of this plant, the water will now be treated before being let into the tank.

The project is developed at a capital expenditure of ₹11 crore under Smart City funds, and involving an operational expenditure of ₹3 crore.

The project will be operational in a fortnight.

The phytorid technology is developed by the CSIR's National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

Workers plant saplings on gravel to implement the 'Phytorid technology' at the waste water treatment plant in Tirupati.

After the waste water is treated under sedimentation process to eliminate solid matter, the same is made to flow in a serpentine motion into a sub-surface chamber containing numerous barricades, while saplings are planted atop on a porous medium containing gravel and stones. It is here that the organic matter gets eliminated.

Later, the water is made to pass through activated carbon filter to bring the Biochemical Oxygen Demand to 5mg, much lower than the national standard of 10mg set by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. "The main advantage of this system is that it is cost-effective, involves no operational hassles, leaves a smaller footprint and emanates no foul odour," says MCT Commissioner Anupama Anjali.

'Asian elephant has lost most of its optimal habitat in Nilgiri Reserve'

SPECIAL

Rohan Premkumar
UDHAGAMANDALAM

Elephants winding their way up the rocky green hills in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) make for pretty photographs. But a recent article says the endangered Asian Elephant has lost most of its "optimal" habitat: flat terrain that is easily negotiable.

A paper, 'Fencing Can Alter Gene Flow of Asian Elephant Populations within Protected Areas,' was published in the international peer-reviewed open-access journal *Conservation*, by a multi-disciplinary team of ecologists, conservationists and scientists.

In it they say, "The WG [Western Ghats] is an escarpment running north-south along the western coastline of India, interrupted towards the south by the low-lying Palghat Gap that separates the northern from the southern elephant populations. This gap has been transformed by agriculture for several centuries, is 3 km at its narrowest, and 40 km at its widest. The northern part of the WG includes the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve [NBR] and its surrounding PAs [protected areas], which contain the largest remaining population of wild elephants, ca. 6000 animals."

Jumbo crisis: Human settlements hinder the movement of the elephants, keeping them confined to hilly areas. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

Easily negotiable

The Palghat Gap is a break in the Ghats that is "relatively flat and consequently easily negotiable by elephants". However, human settlements and crop cultivation have hindered the movement of the elephants, keeping them confined to the hilly areas, considered sub-optimal habitats.

Why is this important? Priya Davidar, a conservation biologist, and one of the authors of the paper, has the answer: "In these sub-optimal habitats, their chances of survival are lower due to dangerous terrain for animals of this size. Our study shows that when barriers are erected, particularly in areas with slopes, their movement is blocked and gene flow reduced. This could ultimately lead to increasing the extinction risk of this endangered species," she said. If movement is restricted and gene flow reduced, there is more in-breeding, and low genetic diversity, pushing up chances of disease, and lowering fertility rates.

A 2021 paper published in the scientific journal *Global Ecology & Conservation* found moderate levels of genetic differentiation between the northern and southern populations, indicating limited gene flow between the two regions.

Mountainous habitats

Over thousands of years, elephants roamed freely across South-East Asia, all the way to China, but "anthropogenic pressures" have restricted them to mountain chains, says the paper. Ironically, most elephant reserves in India are found in mountainous habitats.

Jean-Philippe Puyravaud, from the Sigur Nature Trust and one of the lead authors of the paper, stated that enclosing protected areas without ensuring connectivity through maintaining corridors for elephants to pass through severs gene flow between populations.

"Enclosing reserves without looking at how the terrain is distributed leads to fragmentation. If elephants cannot move from one valley to the next on relatively flat terrain, then population connectivity gets severed," said Mr. Puyravaud.

Freedom in authority

SC is right in not adding to curbs on free speech, but leaders must value restraint

In a recent verdict, the Supreme Court has shown sound restraint while examining the issue of misuse of free speech, especially by political functionaries holding public office. It is to the credit of the Constitution Bench that it did not make any adventurous attempt to expand the scope of the restrictions already spelt out in the Constitution. The context being some rash and intemperate remarks by two ministers, one while serving in the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet and another in Kerala, there was some expectation that the court should carve out an additional restriction on public servants either by making the state vicariously liable for their remarks or by evolving a code of conduct enforceable by law. The four judges who signed off on the main opinion, as well as the fifth judge who wrote a separate one, correctly concluded that the specified grounds for reasonable restrictions in Article 19(2) are "exhaustive" and nothing further can be added by judicial fiat. The majority also declined to expand the notion of 'collective responsibility' to fix liability on the state for such remarks. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, writing a separate opinion, differed on this point, saying it is possible to attribute vicarious responsibility to the government if a minister's view represents that of the government and is related to the affairs of the state. While the issue is largely academic, there have indeed been instances of courts taking note of individual ministers' public remarks to transfer sensitive investigations to other agencies based on an apprehension of injustice if a police probe remained with the State concerned. Political leaders do need an occasional reminder that they should show utmost restraint, as their public utterances tend to get circulated and also influence their followers.

In the course of the discussion, the court has restated and clarified several principles, including that of constitutional tort, or a civil wrong that is actionable. The main opinion concludes that a mere statement by a minister that goes against an individual's fundamental rights may not be actionable, but becomes actionable if it results in actual harm or loss. Justice Nagarathna, on the other hand, holds the view that there should be a proper legal framework to define acts and omissions that amount to 'constitutional tort'. The court's overall view that fundamental rights are enforceable even against private actors is indeed a welcome one. This largely settles the question of whether these rights are only 'vertical', that is, enforceable only against the state, or 'horizontal' too, that is enforceable by one person against another.

A green promise

Small enterprises can be the mainstay of the green economy

The Union Cabinet has cleared a ₹17,490-crore National Green Hydrogen (NGH) mission that aims to facilitate the production of hydrogen from renewable energy. Hydrogen is an essential industrial fuel that has a range of uses from producing ammonia, making steel and cement, to powering fuel cells that can run buses and cars. However, the cheapest way to manufacture this is to rely on fossil fuel such as coal and natural gas and this produces carbon emissions. The concerns over global warming and the gradual but steady embrace of alternative fuels have stoked the world's interest in producing hydrogen from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy. This, however, is relatively expensive. It costs between $0.9 to $1.5 to produce a kilogramme of hydrogen from coal and anywhere from $3.5 to $5.5 per kg to produce it from renewable energy sources. Just as solar power tariffs in India have now dipped below that of coal power, the government hopes that 'green hydrogen', or that produced entirely from renewable energy, will also cost less than the current price to make hydrogen from fossil fuel sources. The NGH mission aims to create an enabling environment for the Indian industry to develop the infrastructure to produce and transport green hydrogen from certain nerve centres to production hubs where they can be used in various industrial applications. The NGH mission has committed to finance – the details are not yet available – the manufacturing of electrolysers, which use electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. By 2030, the goal is to have at least 5 million metric tonnes of annual green hydrogen production, electrolyser capacity of 60-100 gigawatt and a 125-gigawatt renewable energy capacity for green hydrogen and its associated transmission network.

Green hydrogen, because of the entailed expenses, currently accounts for less than 1% of global hydrogen production and India's aim is to become a global, industrial hub and exporter of such hydrogen. While this is a worthy ambition, India's track record in becoming a high-technology manufacturing hub raises doubts on whether this is achievable by 2030. Despite policies, India has not managed to be a net exporter of solar cells, semiconductors or wind power components. This is because India's underlying manufacturing base continues to be weak and unable to efficiently absorb and utilise global capital. For India to realise ambitions, it must strengthen its small manufacturing and allied enterprises infrastructure which, rather than large industries, will be the mainstay of any green economy.

Stabilising ties with Nepal in uncertain times

K.V. Rajan

is India's former Ambassador to Nepal

Atul K. Thakur

is policy professional, columnist and writer with a special focus on South Asia

India will be able to take the unexpected recent developments and prospect of instability in Nepal in its stride, and even find ways to scale up bilateral cooperation

The electoral verdict in Nepal's recent elections was credible. It reflected a clear emergence of voter preference for more responsive governance and an impatience with traditional political power games that ignore the aspirations of the youth and the disadvantaged. It also reconfirmed the successful 'taking root' of democracy in the Himalayan country whose transition from a Hindu monarchy to a secular republic happened after great struggle, sacrifices and ideological adjustments across the political spectrum.

The meaning of the election results

Some of the major accomplishments, although accompanied by shortcomings and controversy, included the peaceful mainstreaming of the Maoist movement into the democratic structure, the integration of guerrillas into the Nepal Army, the transfer of power, the adoption of a Constitution and the emergence of a federal structure.

On the negative side, however, the hung Parliament that the final results created is a sure recipe for instability and frequent changes of government in the coming years. This could easily translate into an inability to deal with the many daunting challenges confronting the country and the continuing unpredictability in the graph of India-Nepal cooperation.

There were widespread expectations that Sher Bahadur Deuba, leader of the Nepali Congress, which was in an alliance with Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda)'s Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) and three other parties, would form the new government as the alliance commanded the largest number of seats in the new Parliament. However, it was Prachanda who was sworn in as Prime Minister as he decided to revive his earlier alliance with former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, who heads the CPN (Unified Marxist-Leninist). This unexpected development will undoubtedly be a source of satisfaction for China, which had earlier conspicuously but unsuccessfully attempted to prod the left wing in the political spectrum to reunite (to promote its own interests and to the detriment of India's interests).

REUTERS

The India and China question

India can, however, take this development in its stride. It is used to dealing with political instability in Nepal, frequent changes of government, and even reputedly anti-India or pro-China leaders heading them. Its focus for many years has been on non-partisan support for inclusive economic development, interdependence, communication links, people-to-people contacts, and building on the compulsive logic of economic complementarities, especially in hydropower where Nepal has huge but largely unexplored potential. The extent of its linkages of history, geography, culture, religion, and economy with Nepal facilitate management of its security concerns within tolerable limits.

Moreover, leaders like Prachanda and Mr. Oli are seasoned veterans capable of making shrewd judgments in their long-term political interests even when they talk about the new government adopting a policy of "equi-proximity" with India and China. The truth is that, as is evident even in robust democracies (Israel's being the most recent example), ideological consistency has less and less meaning in the politician's search for power. So, too, in the case of Nepal, labels such as 'pro-India' or 'anti-India' need to be taken with increasing amounts of salt. It should also not be forgotten that ultranationalist leaders such as Mr. Oli and Prachanda have, on occasion, spoken with courage and conviction to question senseless opposition to India. Mr. Oli, for instance, aggressively questioned the strident demand from his own party to oppose ratification of the Mahakali Treaty a few years ago.

Public opinion in Nepal is now alert to the reality of Chinese intentions, the risks of falling into a debt trap, and the limitations in terms of Chinese capacities in comparison to India's. China's image itself has taken a huge beating because of the current COVID-19 tsunami.

India, however, cannot be complacent. Traditional irritants such as the 1950 India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship and the border issue need not be kept festering but should be sorted out in an open and transparent manner. There is no reason why the worldview of the East India Company or British India should be the determinant guide in shaping perceptions or policies, when people on both sides of an open border are awaiting a better quality of life. Nepal is a transforming country. India is a player on the global stage. The world itself is heading towards major transformations, with new challenges, changing priorities and boundless possibilities.

Time for fresh thinking

The COVID-19 crisis and its long-term fallout is the largest shock to the global socioeconomic framework since the Great Depression of the early 1930s. More than 100 million people fell below the poverty line in 2020-21 alone. India and Nepal are uniquely positioned, because of the breadth and depth of ties between them, to jointly rethink economic governance with a view to enhancing human welfare. There are huge challenges but also huge opportunities in expanding and diversifying cooperation to mutual advantage. Now is the time for fresh thinking on a host of issues, including economic recovery; bilateral, sub-regional and regional cooperation; restructuring supply chains; human as well as conventional security; energy cooperation; development; people-to-people contacts; and the untapped potential for technology to accelerate inclusive growth, and soft power to maximise mutual advantage.

Perhaps the one missing factor in bilateral ties has been mutual empathy: the will of the political class across party lines, bureaucracies, and civil society on either side of the border to understand what the world looks like from the other side. Empathy is an urgent necessity more than ever before, as a factor for sustainable friendly ties.

Diverse but balanced and constructive approaches to India-Nepal relations will contribute to a clearer understanding of the past, better awareness of present trends, and new roadmaps for substantive upgrading of ties in the years to come.

New and innovative approaches are needed on both sides. What all Nepalese yearn for is a sense of equality and Indian respect for their identity. With a Prime Minister who has visited Nepal more times than any of his predecessors, an External Affairs Minister who has won huge respect for his clear and consistent approach to foreign policy priorities, and a Foreign Secretary who was until recently India's Ambassador to Nepal, India has a range of policy drivers with huge combined understanding and sensitivity as far as relations with Nepal are concerned. This should stand both countries and the region in good stead in the challenging times ahead.

Towards making India an uplinking hub

Rakesh Kumar Goswami

is Professor and Regional Director of Indian Institute of the Mass Communication, Jammu

Earlier, Indian broadcasters would fly tapes to foreign countries for uplinking; now, Indian teleports receive programmes from foreign broadcasters for uplinking

There have been two major developments in the television industry in India in the last two years. In 2021, the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, were amended to include a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances and complaints of viewers relating to content broadcast by television channels in accordance with the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. In 2022, the Union Cabinet approved the policy guidelines for the uplinking and downlinking of television channels from India. While an uplink refers to the link from a ground station up to a satellite, a downlink is the link from a satellite down to one or more ground stations or receivers. The amended Cable Television Network Rules bring in a strong institutional system for redressing grievances and make broadcasters and their self-regulating bodies accountable and responsible. The policy guidelines for uplinking and downlinking are aimed at making India the hub of uplinking as they allow Indian teleports to uplink foreign channels.

An expensive and cumbersome affair

For almost three decades after television started in India in September 1959, broadcasting was solely under the control of the state. In the early 1990s, cable television arrived in India unannounced. The government was unprepared to check transmission and broadcast through foreign satellites. Cable television networks mushroomed haphazardly, and foreign television networks invaded our culture through their programmes. In order to regulate this burgeoning cable network industry and to make registration of cable operators mandatory, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 was brought in. But it was only in 2000 that the first license to set up a teleport – an earth station facility from where TV signals can be uplinked to a geostationary satellite – was granted.

The satellite invasion began in the country in the early 1990s and the cable industry acted as a harbinger of the new media revolution. Some people in India joined hands with some Non-Resident Indians in Hong Kong to launch the country's first private television channel, Zee TV, in October 1992. The NRIs took an idle AsiaSat satellite transponder on lease for five years to uplink programmes. In the next few years, Business India Television; Asia Television Network, which was mainly a Hindi feature film channel; and Jain TV also began operating. All these channels flew out tapes every day to Hong Kong, Singapore or Moscow for uplinking. Using the Russian satellite was cheaper than using the satellite in Hong Kong or Singapore. Broadcasting was obviously an expensive and cumbersome affair - imagine airlifting video cassettes to foreign shores for uplinking before the programmes beamed into Indian households through the cable network.

Setting up earth stations

When Indian broadcasters were allowed to uplink from Indian soil, the facility was made available through the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL). Instead of being flown to Hong Kong, Singapore or Moscow, the tapes were now being carried to the VSNL office in New Delhi's Connaught Place. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), Government of India, notified the 'Guidelines for Uplinking from India' in July 2000 and private broadcasters got permission to set up their own earth stations and to uplink. The first license was given to TV Today Network Limited in November 2000 and the broadcaster started a 24X7 Hindi news channel, Aaj Tak, from December 31, 2000. Aaj Tak became the first Indian private television channel to uplink signals from its own earth station. In 2001, five broadcasters - Sun TV Network Limited, Entertainment Television Network Private Limited, Ushodaya Enterprises Private Limited, Essel Shyam Communications Limited and Asianet Infrastucture Private Limited - set up their earth stations with the facility to uplink.

The MIB issued uplinking and downlinking policy guidelines in 2011 for private satellite TV channels and teleports. In view of the challenges from the evolving broadcasting technology, changes in market scenarios and other operational developments in the broadcasting sector, the government decided to review and amend the policy guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of television channels. The Ministry published the draft policy guidelines on April 30, 2020, and invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders within 15 days. In view of the lockdown due to COVID-19, the time limit was extended twice. After considering the comments and suggestions, the policy guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of television channels from India were notified on November 9, 2022.

The guidelines aim to create a conducive environment in line with the principle of ease of doing business on a sound regulatory framework. But more importantly, these are aimed at making India a teleport hub for other countries. From the days when Indian broadcasters were flying tapes to foreign countries for uplinking to the times when foreign broadcasters would send their programmes to Indian teleports for uplink, there has been monumental progress in the television industry. Instead of debating the section that makes it obligatory for broadcasters to undertake public service broadcasting for a minimum of 30 minutes in a day on themes of national importance and social relevance, it is this aspect of the new policy guidelines that needs to be celebrated in India's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal'.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green hydrogen

The Union government deserves praise for walking the talk in its climate change pledges ("Centre clears ₹19,744 cr. Green Hydrogen Mission, Jan. 5). The Green Hydrogen Mission will play a crucial role in achieving India's Panchamrit, which it announced at COP26. At a time when countries around the world seem to be having a lackadaisical attitude towards climate change, India's efforts come as a ray of hope. It is hoped that it meets its goals.

Vidhya B.Ragunath
Thanjavur

Bilkis case

It is often reported that judges recuse themselves from important cases ("Justice Trivedi recuses self from Bilkis Bano case," Jan. 5). When a government employee resorts to such action, it is treated as wilful disobedience. But when judges refuse to work on a particular case, no one seems to frown at this even if no perceivable conflict of interest is involved. In this case, it is not even clear why the judge has taken this decision.

P. K. Haridas
Palakkad

Respecting Iqbal

It is sad that a Principal and a *siksha mitr* of a government-run school in Bareilly were booked for asking the children to sing the prayer, *Lab pe aati hai dua ban ke tamanna meri* ("Muhammad Iqbal: a poet for all ages," Jan. 5, 2023). We should not forget that Iqbal gave us the immortal patriotic song *Saare Jahan Se Achcha Hindustan Hamara*. In recent times, there have been countless incidents highlighting the growing religious intolerance in our country. It is upsetting that this intolerance has infiltrated our educational institutions.

R. Sivakumar
Chennai

Shocking incident

It is shocking that the male passenger got away with such a light punishment ("Man urinates on co-passenger on Air India flight," Jan. 5). Surely such a crime requires a sterner penalty? It is also sad that this happened on November 26, but came to light only on December 28.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

Self-governance

The independence of local governments in formulating their own policies and freedom in generating their own income are prerequisites for their effectiveness ("The values of local self-governance," Jan. 5) .

Vivek Mallick
Darbhanga

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Should India be alarmed by China's COVID surge?

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

is former chief scientist of the World Health Organization

Dr. Giridhara R. Babu

is professor and head of Life Course Epidemiology, Indian Institute of Public Health, PHFI, Bengaluru

PARLEY

With the surge in COVID-19 cases in China, after the easing of its stringent zero-COVID policy in December, there is apprehension that the pandemic could be entering a new, uncertain phase. In a conversation moderated by **Zubeda Hamid**, Soumya Swaminathan and Giridhara R. Babu discuss the situation in China and the potential impact in India. Edited excerpts:

China is witnessing an explosion of COVID-19 cases after the easing of its zero-COVID policy. What is happening? Can this have an impact on India?

Soumya Swaminathan: We've now completed three years, we are into the fourth year of the pandemic. One thing that's become clear is that this virus is not going away any time soon. What we've also seen is the remarkable capacity of this virus to evolve. Now, specifically in China, because they had such a strict zero-COVID policy over the last few years, there was very little natural infection that occurred, and the only protection people have is from vaccination. Unfortunately, in China, the rate of vaccination in the over-60s is less than ideal. As we know, if you're an older person, you have underlying co-morbidities, chronic diseases, and the risk of getting severely ill is much, much higher. That is why there is this concern today that in China, not only can the Omicron sub-variants cause huge surges in infection, but this could translate potentially into a significant amount of both morbidity and mortality.

India is in a different situation because we have high vaccination coverage, including among the elderly. What we don't have is very high booster uptake. But there's been a lot of natural infection over the last three years, and therefore people have built up a good level of protective immunity at the population level. This should be good enough to prevent an infection surge translating into hospitalisation or mortality surge.

Giridhara R. Babu: From the epidemiology perspective, any wave or an outbreak can occur as a result of three important things: how the agent is changing (here, the virus), how human beings are immune, and finally how the environment is facilitating this transmission. Among the three factors, there is an advantage for India and other countries where the host immunity is better, whether because of hybrid immunity or relatively expanded vaccine coverage. But we should remember that this is not a static concept. This is a dynamic concept, which means the immunity in the host keeps changing when you have a virus which is evolving; whether antibodies are lasting long enough, or immunological memory is strong enough to prevent further attacks from newer avatars of the virus are questions we need to investigate. So far, we have the advantage in terms of hybrid immunity. The weak point is in terms of low booster coverage, which needs to definitely be enhanced, especially for the elderly, where 50% haven't got it, and for all adults. Although the booster dose is important, each day millions of young adults are being added into the population cohort. So we should also ensure that they are vaccinated. Without this, the dynamic equilibrium will be lost.

COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Shanghai, China. AFP

India has now administered over 220 crore doses of the vaccine. Since we know the coronavirus keeps on mutating, with new variants of concern, what does the scientific evidence tell us about getting heterologous booster shots?

SS: This is an important question. We have to base our public health advice on data. The first is your own age, state of health, etc. The second thing is time since vaccination or infection, we know that immunity wanes. The third is the virus and we know that since Omicron emerged, it became so transmissible that even higher levels of neutralising antibodies were not able to prevent infection completely. So the third dose, what it does is really to stimulate the immune response, remind the immune system about the antigens and prepare the immune system to face any infection that it may see.

How many boosters do we need? How often do we need these boosters? Is it going to be a yearly phenomenon in the future? These are still open-ended questions. Again, we need good data because the population profile is different in each country. The vaccines that were used are different. From studies done so far, the data point towards an advantage to heterologous boost, which means that if you've had the first two shots with an adenoviral-vectored vaccine, and you get a third shot with a protein subunit or an mRNA vaccine, or the other way around, probably what it does is it helps to stimulate different arms of the immune system. There's still limited data. But regardless of which is used, I think the third dose is important for all age groups; the fourth dose perhaps only for those at high risk.

> India is in a different situation because we have high vaccination coverage, including among the elderly
> **SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN**

GRB: A third dose has shown evidence almost all over the world of effectiveness against the newer variants, including Omicron. Which means even though the vaccines are not specific to Omicron, the booster dose has helped to mount an immune response against the newer lineages. Having said that, the evidence for the fourth dose or frequent doses or even an annual vaccination schedule for COVID-19 is not there yet. That's where most of the confusion is, because there are countries which have done four and are preparing for the fifth, and there are countries which do not have enough vaccines to cover the primary vaccination schedule. When you have such heterogeneity at the global level, each country should have its own evidence base.

The Union Health Ministry has said States must resume genome sequencing of new COVID-19 cases. How well are we doing in this regard in India? Does it need to be stepped up in the light of new variants emerging?

SS: Genomic sequencing and surveillance have played a very important role in this pandemic. In fact, if you look at GISAID, which is the database that hosts the whole genome sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 viruses, there are approximately 14 million whole genome sequences; about half of those are from the Omicron strain alone. When we think about genomic surveillance, it's important to be very strategic about it. There needs to be good representativeness from, say, across the different States, because sometimes you can have blind spots. If you looked at the data from India – for example, INSACOG (Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium) – I think over 25% of samples come from Maharashtra alone. If you have very limited samples coming from other States, then you may actually miss what's going on. We should be clear about who we are sequencing. All of this needs real-time data collection, but also analysis, reporting and public health action. Otherwise, it's of no use as an academic exercise. I think that's where probably we can do a little bit better, in terms of how we are quickly able to use the data coming out to take public health action.

GRB: INSACOG is a consortium of labs, and as a consortium, they're doing really well with their stated objective. But we have to take one step back. To give an example, not all the labs are connected to the IHIP (Integrated Health Information Platform) now; that means there are several other hospitals and labs that need to be connected to the platform. So what we need to do is integrate the surveillance mechanism at the peripheral level, expand the infrastructure, have the consortium, not just the labs, but also of the hospitals, and connect it to public health actions.

Would you say that there are no real concerns with regard to another wave in India per se, but we still need to continue to be masked and taking other COVID-19 precautions through this year as well?

GRB: Whether there's a real concern from the existing lineages in China or elsewhere, it doesn't appear so for hospitalisation and death, but there will be a greater risk when a new variant develops. So we need to follow the signs in terms of understanding where the new clusters are developing. What kind of symptoms are there? What is the genomic sequencing of that? And then what is the population immunity status level there? And from there, take the next step in terms of whether we should have more stringent [rules] or not. Currently, there's more of panic, less of a systematic strengthening in most countries, and panic should not drive pandemic control.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

A data person to a data journalist

Data stories broke long-held assumptions and hard facts led to cold truths as data knew no bias

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

When Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rises to present the 2024 Budget on February 1, 2023, I will have spent six years as a data journalist at *The Hindu*. In my early days, when I was learning the tricks of the trade, data was used very differently in print newsrooms across India from how it is being used today.

Back then, data graphics were commissioned based on availability of space. The expectation was to visualise the data supplied by the reporter, and fit it within a small rectangle. It was less about value addition to the story and more about capturing the essence of the news item in a nutshell. Nothing more, nothing less.

Anything related to data was approached cautiously in most newsrooms. There were many taboos. A graph using log scale was frowned upon. A chart with two vertical axes was anathema. Scatter plots – or fondly called as inkblot charts by some – were scarcely used, hidden away in opinion pages. Line charts with more than three lines were passed grudgingly. But a neatly arranged bar-chart was always welcome, and pie-charts were fan-favorites. A tree map, no way.

Effectively, a data visualisation was just that, a visual. And the job of the data person was to make sure the visual looks elegant, easy to understand and that it gives a relief to the reader's eyes burdened by mountains of text.

But the outlook changed in *The Hindu* soon because of two wildly different reasons. First, a recurring pocket-sized stand-alone feature called the "data point" which appeared in a corner on opinion pages. Both the readers and fellow newsmen were exposed to different types of charts. Graphs were used to convey the entire story, and not anymore just sidekicks to buttress the argument already conveyed by the text story.

Second, the big-ticket days which required full-page data specials such as Union Budgets and elections. When *The Hindu* decided to do long-form stories every week, a full page filled with charts and figures was welcomed by section heads. The reason was simple - data stories broke long-held assumptions. Hard facts led to cold truths as data knew no bias.

The first full-page data special done for Tamil Nadu's pages showed that while the State is considered relatively more progressive, it lagged far behind rest of India as far as status of women is concerned. While anti-migrant sentiments were sweeping the State before crucial 2019 State elections, data showed that it was much ado about nothing. When the Centre blamed hesitancy for the State's slow vaccination rate, the RTI data showed it was a supply issue.

Death registration data showed that COVID-19 deaths were undercounted in most States. While the chief aim of the farmer Bills was to unshackle farmers from notified markets, data showed most were already selling to private traders.

Data kept coming to the rescue and the story count and the sizes allotted kept increasing.

Why did the Chembarambakkam disaster happen? How come Kerala flooded last time, and not this year? Will the BA.2 variant lead to another wave? Was Saudi Arabia's defeat of Argentina the biggest ever World Cup shock? What is the reason behind high petrol prices? Data stories gave verifiable, opinion-free answers for the above questions.

The questions kept coming and the data-backed answers followed them.

And validation came from readers with mostly bouquets and some brickbats sent in regularly. YouTube videos, which analyse *The Hindu* editorials for IAS preparation, started covering the Data Point section. Professors from IIM and IIT used Data Point as case studies for their data classes.

What started as a small pocket-sized feature in a corner is now six-column wide and half-page deep. Data Point has expanded to a video, a podcast and a newsletter in addition to its print offering. And there are no data persons anymore, just data journalists.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

In deep water

Most Chinese fishing nets that once dotted the Fort Kochi shoreline are gone, but the remaining ones spearing through the swash create engaging patterns, much like the contemporary art on show at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale. The existing nets are facing threat due to delay in renovation by the Kerala Tourism. THULASI KAKKAT

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 6, 1973

Nixon and Kissinger review Vietnam talks

Washington, Jan. 5: President Nixon yesterday met his chief peace negotiator, Dr. Henry Kissinger, and other key advisers for a general review of the Vietnam situation and the negotiations which resume in Paris on Monday. The White House refused to give details of the discussions, which were also attended by the Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, the Defence Secretary, Mr. Melvin Laird, and Admiral Thomas Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The White House spokesman, Mr. Gerald Warren, said that after the meeting, which lasted about 90 minutes, President Nixon and Dr. Kissinger had separate talks with Mr. Elliott Richardson, who has been designated as the next Secretary of Defence. He said they had an exchange of plans for the second term of the Nixon administration. Dr. Kissinger is expected to leave Washington on Sunday for Paris to resume negotiations with the Hanoi representative, Mr. Le Due Tho, fixed on January 6. Senate Democrats approved a resolution yesterday calling for an end of Congressional funding for the Vietnam war. The vote was 36 to 11. The measure was pushed through the Democratic caucus by Senator Edward M. Kennedy at a three-hour meeting as pressure mounted on Capitol Hill for an end to the war and an explanation for the Nixon administration why the bombing of North Vietnam was resumed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 6, 1923

Council of State

Delhi: Two resolutions of Sir Ahmad Thambi Maricar (Negapatam) have been admitted by the President of the Council of State subject to disallowance by the Governor-General. The first resolution requires that necessary steps should be taken with the Governments of Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States to withdraw quarantine restrictions imposed upon the passengers of the deck, the passengers who are proceeding to those colonies. The second resolution urged that necessary, adequate steps should be taken with the Ceylon Government to open the port, Point Colinece, for the passenger traffic to Ceylon.

From Page One

Court thwarts eviction from Railway land

Proceedings against them pertaining to the Public Premises Act were still on, said counsel for the affected families. The High Court order had come out of the blue and was *ex-parte*. They had not been given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Children, women and elderly persons among them now faced the prospect of being evicted from their homes in the dead of winter in the biting cold, they said.

Their petition said: "Ours is a welfare state where government authorities need to work towards the well-being and prosperity of the citizens. In the present case, they have proceeded without following due process to issue *ex-parte* orders against the petitioners and produce arbitrary demarcation report... Such an approach shows an absolute disregard to procedure of law and is in complete violation of basic humanitarian and fundamental rights."

"There are multiple issues involved here. They cannot be evicted within the week," Justice Kaul remarked. It listed the case on February 7. The case was listed urgently on January 5 after Mr. Bhushan told the Chief Justice that the High Court order had left families in dire straits.

Decennial census postponed till Sept.

The letter, while referring to a June 14, 2022 communication to extend the date of freezing of boundaries up to December 31 the same year, said, "It has now been decided by the competent authority to further extend the date of freezing of boundaries. The boundaries of the administrative units for the ensuing census will now be frozen with effect from 01-07-2023."

The letter accessed by *The Hindu* said the census directorates are "requested to kindly issue necessary instructions to all concerned in the State/Union Territory to give effect to the changes in administrative boundaries, if any, latest by 30.06.2023 and send the copies of notifications on jurisdictional changes to concerned Directorate of Census Operations in the State/Union Territory with endorsement to this office."

The first phase of Census 2021– the House listing and Housing Census along with updating the National Population Register (NPR) – was scheduled to be held from April-September 2020 but were postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The second and main phase of the decennial census exercise – the population enumeration – was to be concluded by March 5, 2021.

According to provisional data compiled by the RGI till June 2021, the total number of districts in the country have gone up from 640 in 2011 to 736 presently.

The upcoming census is to be held for the first time both in digital mode and through paper schedules (questionnaire/forms).

Putin orders 36-hour ceasefire in Ukraine

Mr. Putin's order, addressed to Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, was published on the Kremlin's website.

Patriarch Kirill suggested a truce from noon Friday through midnight Saturday, local time. The Russian Orthodox Church, which uses the ancient Julian calendar, celebrates Christmas on January 7; some Christians in Ukraine also mark the holiday on that date. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak dismissed Patriarch Kirill's call as "a cynical trap and an element of propaganda." President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had proposed a Russian troop withdrawal earlier, before December 25, but Russia rejected it.

Mr. Putin spoke by phone with Turkey's President Thursday and the Kremlin said he "reaffirmed Russia's openness to a serious dialogue" with Ukrainian authorities.

11 Omicron sub-variants found in air passengers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Up to 11 sub-variants of Omicron have been detected among 124 samples collected from international travellers who tested positive for COVID-19, according to data shared by sources in the Ministry of Health. They said that 19,227 samples were collected from various ports of entry, including air, sea and land between December 24 and January 3.

Of the 124 samples sent for whole genome Sequencing, reports for 40 samples were received.

Eleven sub-variants include types of XBB, BA 5.2, BQ 1.1, 1.122, 1.1.5, among others. "The most prominent of these is XBB sub-lineage," the sources said. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya urged citizens to remain alert. He also said health emergency preparedness would be a top priority for India under the G20 presidency. Other priorities include strengthening co-operation in the pharma sector for access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics and digital health innovations.

G-20 health track meetings will take place between January and August 2023 in Kerala, Goa, Telangana, and Gujarat.

Following protests, Centre stops Parasnath projects

There had been organised protests by members of the Jain community in several parts of India following a long-standing proposal by Jharkhand government to develop the hills for tourism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry on Thursday withdrew permission for tourism and ecotourism activities in the vicinity of the Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary in Jharkhand. This followed a meeting of Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav with members of the Jain community here.

On Thursday, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren wrote to Mr. Yadav asking him to take an "appropriate decision" regarding the legal status of the eco-sensitive zone surrounding the Parasnath Hills.

There have been organised protests by members of the Jain community in several parts of India following a long-standing proposal by the Jharkhand government to develop the Parasnath Hills in Jharkhand as an ecotourism site.

Matters of faith: Members of the Jain community taking out a protest rally in Vijayawada on Thursday. K.V.S. GIRI

The location is of significant religious importance to Jains.

A note from the Environment Ministry said: "Implementations of provisions of Clause 3 of the eco-sensitive zone notification pertaining to *Sammed Shikharji parvat kshetra* (Parasnath hills) is stayed for[th]with, including amongst others all tourism and ecotourism activities." The Centre declared the area an eco-sensitive zone in 2019.

The eco-sensitive zone, according to provisions of the Environment Protection Act, is a buffer zone surrounding a 'Protected Area.'

While protected zones permit almost no activities, eco-sensitive zones, under Clause 3 of the Act, are allowed to promote tourism provided a master plan specifying the permissible activities is given to the Centre by the State government concerned.

Mr. Yadav tweeted: "GoI directs Jharkhand government to strictly enforce existing provisions protecting the whole Parasnath Hills, categorically prohibiting liquor, drugs, non-veg food, loud music, unauthorised camping and trekking, defiling of religious sites, disturbing natural tranquillity."

A senior official in the Environment Ministry told *The Hindu* that there were no reports of illicit consumption of liquor in the vicinity of the Parasnath Hills.

"Members of the community said that the religious sanctity of the site wasn't being respected and today's decision is a pause on ecotourism development until a committee consisting of those of the Jain community decides on the plan of action forward," he told *The Hindu*.

BJP 'commercialising' Jain pilgrimage centres: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The move to develop Sammed Shikharji was made under the regime of Raghubar Das, says Khera

A plan to develop the sacred mountain of Sammed Shikharji in Jharkhand into a tourism destination was made under the earlier regime in the State, led by then Chief Minister Raghubar Das, the Congress alleged on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, former Union Minister Pradeep Jain Aditya and party spokesperson Pawan Khera said the BJP had tried to "commercialise" the pilgrimage centres of Jainism and hurt the sentiments of the community.

They alleged that the BJP had wanted to commercialise the holy pilgrimage centres of Jainism such as Sammed Shikharji, Palitana's Shatrunjaya hills (in Gujarat), Mount Girnar (also in Gujarat) and make them a medium to "fill the State coffers".

Giving the chronology, the Congress leaders said the plan to develop the Parasnath and Shikharji hills was announced by the BJP government in Jharkhand on April 14, 2015. The plan included construction of a helipad, a theme park, a tourist reception centre and a bus stand at Madhuban. In August 2019, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change declared an area of around 25 km around the Parasnath Hills and Topchanchi wildlife sanctuaries in Giridih as ecosensitive zones (ESZ). However, that did not prevent the area from being developed as a tourist attraction.

The Congress alleged that in Gujarat, where the BJP has a "double engine" government, the BJP is making "malicious attempts to pollute the sanctity of two pilgrimage sites (Shatrunjaya hills near Bhavnagar and Girnar mountains near Junagadh) of the Jain community".

At Strategic Dialogue, India and France share views on security and defence cooperation

Dinakar Peri
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval on Thursday held the 36th round of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Bonne. Mr. Bonne's visit was the first major diplomatic visit of the New Year, and according to a statement from the Embassy of France in India, both participants agreed to intensify efforts "towards strategic autonomy".

"The two sides held discussions on a variety of issues, including the current global security situation in the context of the conflict in Ukraine, regional security in the context of Afghanistan, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, besides other issues of mutual concern," the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi, said. During his day-long visit, Mr. Bonne also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bilateral ties: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets French National Security Adviser Emmanuel Bonne in New Delhi. ANI

"The agenda covered all aspects of the Indo-French strategic partnership: defence and security cooperation," the statement from the Embassy of France said. India is close to taking a decision on a fighter jet to fly off the Navy's aircraft carriers, for which Boeing's F-18 Super Hornet and Dassault Aviation's Rafael-M are in the race.

A decision is expected shortly for procuring 26 jets, in which Rafale has an edge, according to official sources.

Tackling challenges

In addition, Safran of France is competing with other global engine manufacturers to co-develop a fighter jet engine with the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Mr. Bonne, who is the Diplomatic Adviser and G-7/G-20 Sherpa to French President Emmanuel Macron, also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

"The discussions showed how close our views are on all major international issues and how the France-India strategic partnership is key to tackling the pressing challenges of 2023," France's Ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain, said in a message after the meeting.

The Embassy of France said that the visiting guest conveyed France's "full support" for India's G-20 Presidency. The French statement emphasised that the strategic partnership with India is based on "exceptional mutual trust, shared democratic values and a joint vision for a multipolar, rules-based world order".

Union govt. declares TRF, front of LeT, a terror outfit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs has declared The Resistance Front (TRF), a front of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The Home Ministry said that TRF came into existence in 2019.

The Home Ministry said that the organisation is recruiting youth through online medium for furtherance of terrorist activities and has been involved in carrying out recruitment of terrorists and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir.

Families visit ex-Navy men in Qatar's custody: MEA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Eight Indians in the custody of Qatar authorities were allowed to meet their family members "recently", an official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. Arindam Bagchi, official spokesperson, said the government was monitoring the case closely.

"Some family members from India recently travelled and met their family members who have been detained [in Qatar]. Visit of more family members to Qatar is being facilitated and our Embassy in Doha is continuing to pursue the matter," he said.

Mr. Bagchi described the case as "a matter of high priority" for India.

Mr. Bagchi, however, declined to share details of the legal processes that the eight Indians are facing in Qatar. *The Hindu* had reported that India was granted consular access to detained nationals last week. During the meeting, Indian officials confirmed the physical well-being of the eight individuals.

Centre plans to promote India as a global hub for green hydrogen: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The thrust of India's National Green Hydrogen (NGH) Mission is to promote India as global hub for producing green hydrogen, R.K. Singh, Minister for New and Renewable Energy said at press briefing on Thursday. Green hydrogen is when hydrogen is from a renewable energy source, such as solar or wind.

"We aim to be the biggest producer of green hydrogen. The European Union, Japan, South Korea have all announced plans to produce as well as import green hydrogen and the way energy transition is taking place, all developed countries with net zero targets will need green hydrogen," said Mr. Singh.

Eyes on the future: By 2030, the country has a target to develop green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 mt a year. AP

₹19,744 cr. sanctioned

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the NGH Mission at a cost of ₹19,744 crore. On Thursday, Mr. Singh said that by 2030, India has a target to develop green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 mt (million tonnes) a year. This is alongside adding renewable energy capacity of about 125 GW (gigawatt). This would mean decarbonisation of the industrial, mobility and energy sectors; reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels and feedstock; developing indigenous manufacturing capabilities; creating employment opportunities; and developing new technologies such as efficient fuel cells.

By 2030, the Centre hopes it will bring in investments worth ₹8 trillion and create over 6 lakh jobs. Moreover, about 50 mt a year of carbon dioxide emissions are expected to be averted by 2030.

Green hydrogen was still a nascent sector globally with many foundational technologies still being experimented with. India therefore had the opportunity to be a leader – having already initiated several pilot projects – in this space, Mr. Singh said.

There would be production-linked incentives for producers and India is expected to have the capacity to produce 60-100 GW of electrolyser capacity, the largest in the world, he said.

Rajnath reviews infrastructure upgrade in Port Blair

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Amid push to upgrade facilities at the strategic Andaman and Nicobar islands, which gives India leverage to keep an eye on China's expansion in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday reviewed the "operational preparedness" of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and infrastructure development at operational areas.

Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief, ANC, briefed the Minister about the "geostrategic potential" of the islands and "the role they can play towards enhancing India's influence and support to military operations in the area", the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Singh is on a two-day visit to the ANC, the country's only operational joint services command.

Interacting with officers and jawans, Mr. Singh commended the role played by the Andaman and Nicobar Command in strengthening national security and keeping the maritime domain safe and secure, while playing a significant role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Rajnath Singh

Noting that this is Mr. Singh's first visit to Indira Point since January 2019, the statement added that apart from the "strategic signalling" in view of proximity of these far-flung islands to the Indo-Pacific, the visit of the Minister motivated the troops deployed in these distant and remote islands.

Recently, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change granted final environmental clearance for a mega ₹72,000-crore development plan for the Great Nicobar island.

Will soon undertake a 'nationwide yatra': Nitish

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Beginning his 14th yatra named *Samadhan Yatra* (solution journey) from West Champaran district of Bihar on Thursday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar hinted at undertaking a nationwide journey after the Budget Session of the Assembly.

During the month-long yatra, Mr. Kumar will cover 18 districts and review the status of his government's schemes and projects.

The Budget Session is scheduled from February 25.

Mr. Kumar set off the *samadhan yatra* from Darubari village where he reviewed government projects and heard the demands of villagers. The Chief Minister was accompanied by several senior officials of the State, Finance Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Water Resources Minister Sanjay Kumar Jha.

DGCA asks Air India to explain laxity in responding to woman's complaint

'Unprofessional conduct' from the airline, says the regulatory body; Delhi Police identify Mumbai-based accused who urinated on co-passenger; on another international flight of the airline, man urinated on blanket of woman passenger

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Thursday served more than 20 show-cause notices to Air India and the cabin crew and pilots of its November 26 New York-Delhi service for "unprofessional conduct" in failing to respond suitably to the complaint of a woman that a male co-passenger urinated on her.

Show-cause notices were issued to "accountable manager of M/s Air India, Director in-flight services of M/s Air India, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations", the DGCA said in a press statement.

Pulled up: The DGCA said the airline's response shows that it did not understand the regulatory obligations. FILE PHOTO

The Delhi Police registered an FIR against the accused on Wednesday based on the victim's complaint to Air India. The police said the Mumbai-based accused, Shankar Mishra, is the vice-president of the India chapter of a U.S. multinational financial services firm headquartered in California. A senior officer said "multiple teams have been sent to Mumbai to nab the man but he remains absconding". The police wrote to immigration officials to issue a lookout notice against him.

The heavily intoxicated man allegedly urinated on the elderly woman on Air India flight 102, but the airline did not restrain him or hand him over to the Central Industrial Security Force when the aircraft landed. It instead allowed him to fly onward to Mumbai. The woman was forced to sit on the urine-soaked seat for a part of her journey as the airline failed to accommodate her in an empty first-class seat.

The DGCA said the airline's conduct was "unprofessional and led to a systemic failure" as it failed to comply with provisions for dealing with unruly passengers.

Not only did the lack of a suitable response reflect that it was "devoid of empathy" but also that it did not understand regulatory obligations as described under various regulations such as the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the Civil Aviation Requirements of Handling of Unruly Passengers, the Cabin Safety Circular, and its own Operations Manual and Quick Reference Handbook, the DGCA said.

Air India will be probed for failing to comply with various regulatory provisions that require mandatory reporting to the regulator, steps taken to proactively identify and prevent an unruly conduct by a passenger and ensuring safety of passengers and aircraft following a mid-flight incident.

Similar incident

It emerged that 10 days after the incident, a similar event occurred on an Air India flight from Paris to Delhi when a drunk man urinated on the blanket of a woman co-passenger. The incident was reported to the Air Traffic Control, the CISF and the Indira Gandhi International Airport following which the passenger was apprehended. But he was let go after the two passengers arrived at a mutual understanding. "In deference to the victim's wishes, Air India did not lodge a police report," the airline said.

INBRIEF

Kharge flags off yatra in Bihar, raps BJP for 'divisive politics'

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday flagged off the party's 1,200-km Bharat Jodo Yatra in Bihar while accusing the BJP of "divisive politics". "To make people fight against each other in the name of religion is the work of the BJP. They (BJP) do only divisive politics," Mr. Kharge said at a public meeting at Banka.

CJI recuses self from hearing petition against Kunal Kamra

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday recused himself from hearing a contempt of court petition against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra. One of the petitions concerned comments made by Mr. Kamra on social media in connection with a November 2020 decision of the top court to grant bail to journalist Arnab Goswami. Chief Justice Chandrachud had headed the Bench which granted bail to Mr. Goswami.

CRPF men arrive in Dangri; people seek better rifles for VDCs

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Deployment of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel started at Upper Dangri in Rajouri on Thursday amid growing pressure by the BJP on the Lieutenant-Governor's administration to arm members of the village defence committees (VDCs) with automatic rifles, in the wake of the recent militant attack that left six civilians dead.

One CRPF company was deployed in Upper Dangri, which has porous forest cover. Official sources suggest that 18 CRPF companies – over 1,800 personnel – are likely to be deployed to strengthen the anti-militancy grid and provide security cover to vulnerable Hindu pockets in the Pir Panjal valley, comprising Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Meanwhile, the killings continued to spark protests in the Jammu province. A shutdown was observed in Mendhar town in Poonch. There is also growing pressure from locals and the BJP on the L-G administration to revive VDCs to fight militants.

Sources said the administration is planning to provide automatic rifles, self-loading rifles or INSAS guns to VDC members. Former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, however, said giving automatic rifles to the VDCs "will not help in the long run".

Ram Temple to be ready for opening on Jan. 1, 2024: Shah

Syed Sajjad Ali
AGARTALA

The Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be ready for inauguration on January 1, 2024, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced during a public meeting at Sabroom in southern Tripura on Thursday. Mr. Shah was launching the BJP's campaign for the coming Assembly election in the State with Chief Minister Manik Saha at the helm.

"I want to tell Rahul [Gandhi] *baba*, who always insisted on the date, that the *Gagan Chumbee* of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya will be ready for inauguration on January 1, 2024," he said at a public meeting in south Tripura to flag off the Jan Vishwas Yatra ahead of the election.

Saha is CM face

In his speech at Sabroom, he touched upon subjects such as the Ram Temple, Article 370, and surgical strikes while formally naming Mr. Saha as the party's Chief Ministerial face in the election. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb a different task in national politics. Mr. Deb was made the party's Haryana in-charge and a Rajya Sabha member.

Mr. Shah attacked the Congress and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) for trying to block the dilution of Article 370 of the Constitution on a plea that the move will create a "blood bath" in Kashmir. However, he said, "in the past three years, nothing has happened there as this is the government of Narendra Modi".

He condemned the two successive Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) governments at the Centre for "allowing Pakistan-trained terrorists to commit havoc" in the Kashmir Valley, and compared this with the surgical and air strikes inside Pakistan conducted by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to avenge major terrorist attacks.

Mr. Shah said the BJP, after the formation of its government in Tripura in 2018, fulfilled the aspirations of the common people and ushered in a new era of development in the State.

Tearing into the previous CPI(M)-led Left Front governments, he alleged that for every small issue, from drinking water and rations to the registration of a police case, one had to knock on the door of the Left cadres in Tripura.

He sounded confident that the people would retain the BJP government for a second term and benefit from the spate of development and welfare programmes currently in place across the State. "People will give us at least a two-thirds majority. I am confident," Mr. Shah said.

The Jan Vishwas Yatra will hold 200 street meetings while covering a distance of 1,000 km. The rallies will culminate in Agartala on January 12 in the presence of party national president J.P. Nadda.

Parties trade barbs over Punjab SYL canal dispute

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

As the stalemate surrounding the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal – the focal point of a water-sharing dispute between Haryana and Punjab – continues, the political parties are involved in a war of words over the emotive issue.

On Thursday, Punjab's Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa called upon the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government to establish ownership rights over the river waters, while presenting its case in the Supreme Court. SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal accused the AAP of conspiring to destroy the riparian basis of Punjab's claim on the water of its rivers. The AAP's Malvinder Singh Kang alleged that the previous governments had allowed the canal's construction for their vested interest.

भारत सरकार / अंतरिक्ष विभाग Government of India, Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान/ Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology,
[वि.अ.आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित]
[Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act 1956]
वलियमला पोस्ट, तिरुवनंतपुरम Valiamala PO, Thiruvananthapuram -695 547
दूरभाष/ Phone:0471-2568643/603, फैक्स/Fax:0471-2568602, ई – मेल E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in
अध्येता/परियोजना अध्येताओं केलिए आवेदन (केवल ऑनलाइन) आमंत्रित
Application for Research / Project Fellow (Online Application only)
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) अध्येता/परियोजना अध्येताओं के पदों केलिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है | Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) invites application for the Research / Project fellow positions. विस्तृत विज्ञापन एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट https://www.iist.ac.in/career/3 देखें। For detailed advertisement and online application, please visit our website : https://www.iist.ac.in/career/3.
विज्ञा सं./Advt. No: IIST/Admn/RMT/01/2023 दिनांक /Dated 05.01.2023

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:
NIT No.: WBSEDCL/Communication/Tender/2022-23/SCADA/WB/1362, Dt.: 21.12.2022 of the Chief Engineer, Communication Cell. Estimated Cost: ₹ 201.04 crore for the work of 'Design, supply, installation, testing, commissioning, integration and five (5) years O&M service of SCADA/ADMS projects under WBSEDCL in West Bengal under World Bank financial assistance'.
For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in
ICA- T321 (4)/2023

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2582099
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY
BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:
1. Tender No. 074/MYS/MMD/2022-23 - Supply of Knives Used for UNO Machines at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
2. Tender No. 075/MYS/VARNIKA-18/2022-23 - Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Training of 1 No. of Offset Printing Proofer for Varnika at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
3. Tender No. 076/MYS/CIVIL/2022-23 - Fixing of Wall Mounted EWC at Township Quarters, BRBNMPL, Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru.
4. Tender No. 077/MYS/MMD/2022-23 - Supply and Installation of Digital Display Board at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
5. Tender No. 078/MYS/MMD/2022-23 - Supply and Installation of Personal Computers (Desktop & All-In-One) at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
For downloading tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website www.brbnmpl.co.in. Further corrigendum/ amendment to above tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.
Sr. General Manager

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)
Corporate Office, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001 Telephone: 080-2234 0816
e-Mail: gmdsm@bescom.co.in & gmdsm.work@gmail.com
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
BESCOM invites Request For Proposal (RFP) through ISN-ETS platform for "Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build, Own & Operate (BOO), for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agri feeders at Sub-Station (SS) level in BESCOM jurisdiction covering 2,62,331 IP sets, its associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned SS and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C-Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM Scheme".

RFP Enquiry No.	BESCOM/GM(DSM)/BC-51/KUSUM-C/ 2022-23, Date: 06.01.2023
Bidding Portal	https://www.bharat-electronictender.com (Through ISN-ETS platform) The interested bidders shall register for participation in the Tender.
RFP document availability	9th January 2023 onwards
RFP Purchase Date	9th January 2023 up to 7th February 2023 at 15:00 hrs (during office working hours only)
Pre-bid meeting	17th January 2023 at 11:00 hrs Venue: Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Belaku Bhavana, BESCOM, Corporate Office, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001
Last Date & Time for submission of Pre-bid Queries/Clarifications	18th January 2023 up to 17:00 hrs
Last Date & Time for uploading the documents by the bidders	7th February 2023 up to 16:00 hrs
Last date for submission of EMD	Before opening of Techno-Commercial Bid
Date & Time for Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid	9th February 2023 at 15:00 hrs
Date & Time for Opening of Price Bid	Will be opened in bidding portal after completion of Techno-Commercial Evaluation. Separate intimation regarding date of opening of Price Bid will not be issued.
Date & Time of Reverse Auction	Will be conducted for the Techno-Commercially qualified Bidders, duly intimating through email.

Sd/- General Manager(Ele,), DSM, BESCOM, Bengaluru
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUST ALWAR
क्रमांक:– / लेखा / 2022 / 16098–108 / 22 दिनांक:–27.12.2022
NOTICE INVITING BID-37/2022-23
Bids for Lighting, Road Light and Elect. works invited from interest bidders upto 02-01-2023 (For item no-07 upto 24-01-2023) 4.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and www.uitalwar.in the approximate Value of the Procurement is Rs.525.10 Lakhs

UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00316	UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00320
UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00317	UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00321
UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00318	UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00322
UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00319		

Raj.Samwad/C/22/12773
Executive Engineer
UIT, Alwar

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE
(An Autonomous Organization under Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. D-Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110 058
TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of Director General, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, the Deputy Director, Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Chennai invites sealed Bids from reputed original equipment manufacturers/ their authorized representatives in two bid system (Technical Bid and Commercial Bid) for the supply of Ilaj Bil Tadbeer (Regimenal Therapy) equipments.
The tender document indicating the detailed specifications and terms and conditions can either be downloaded from the website of the CCRUM (www.ccrum.res.in) or can be obtained from the office of Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, No.1, West Mada Church Road, Royapuram, Chennai-13.
The last date for receipt of Bids is 30-01-23 at 5.00 pm. For further details please visit Councils website: www.ccrum.res.in
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK,
CHENNAI-600 010. Ph.No. (044) 26426773 Email id.: tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157
Cancellation Notice
No. BS3/369/2023 Dated: 05.01.2023
E-tender Reference No.BS3/369/2023 -TNCSC/22-23
Online electronic tender for "PURCHASE OF 200 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms) to be held on 06.02.2023 and published on 04.01.2023 is cancelled due to administrative reasons.
DIPR/131/Tender/2023
MANAGING DIRECTOR.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
CORRIGENDUM
COAL (SHIP) – 120 DT.02.01.2023

Description	As per Tender Notice issued on 04.01.2023	Corrigendum
Period of charter	9 months + 4 months choption + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption	6 months + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption
Laydays	30th January 2023 to 15th February 2023	30th January 2023 to 15th February 2023
Commence of Tender submission	04.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs	06.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs
Due date for submission of Tender	11.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs	18.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs
Due date for opening of Tender	12.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs	19.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs

COAL (SHIP) – 121 DT.02.01.2023

Description	As per Tender Notice issued on 04.01.2023	Corrigendum
Period of charter	9 months + 4 months choption + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption	6 months + 3 months choption +/- 15 days choption
Laydays	30th January 2023 to 15th February 2023	30th January 2023 to 15th February 2023
Commence of Tender submission	04.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs	06.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs
Due date for submission of Tender	11.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs	18.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs
Due date for opening of Tender	12.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs	19.01.2023 @ 14.30 hrs

DIPR/132/Tender/2023
CHIEF ENGINEER/MECH/COAL
TANGEDCO/CHENNAI-2
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area 1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart City Mission Corporation Roads in Thiruvananthapuram Balance Works Package-05

Sl. No	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)
1.	Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart City Mission Corporation Roads in Thiruvananthapuram Balance Works Package - 05	2022_SCTLT_545157_1	Rs.1,63,50,036/-

Bid Submission Last Date: 17th January 2023, Tuesday, 5:00 PM
Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail.
All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in
(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e- TENDER NOTICE
The TSTransco (Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited) invites online Bids under e-procurement for supply of Numerical Distance Relays, Directional (3O/L +1E/L) Relays and Differential Relays for PTRs Compatible to IEC 61850 Protocol against Tender Specification No. TSPMM21- 42/2022.
Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement market place i.e., www.tender.telangana.gov.in.
Contact Nos.: CHIEF ENGINEER/P&MM, TSTransco Phone: 040-23396000 (Extn.:3487/3583/3460/3332) 040-23303736
www.tstransco.in
Ro No.45/22
Sd/-
Chief Engineer/P&MM

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : RT 67 & 68/22-23/SE/PHC/PKD JJM 2021-22 (1) WSS to Tarur Panchayath - (2) WSS to Kizhakkenchery panchayath - Supplying, Laying, Testing, Commissioning and maintenance of balance distribution system, supplying and fixing electromagnetic flow meter, Construction of RCC pipe carrying bridge, providing FHTCs and road restoration. EMD : Rs. 500000 each, Tender fee : Rs. 16540 each, Last Date for submitting Tender : 19-01-2023 03:00:pm, Phone : 04912544927, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle
KWA-JB-GL-6-1362-2022-23
Palakkad

INBRIEF

Patnaik inaugurates Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday inaugurated one of the largest hockey stadiums in India in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. Built at an estimated cost of ₹261 crore, the stadium, located in Sundargarh district, has been named the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex. It has been built on 50 acres in a record 15 months with a seating capacity of 20,000. Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, State Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Secretary (5T) V.K. Pandian and Sports Secretary R. Vineel Krishna were present during the event.

NEET-PG 2023 to be conducted on March 5

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NMEMS) will conduct the 2023 National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) on March 5, 2023, said sources. Later in the day, the NBEMS clarified that the notification for inviting online applications for NEET-PG 2023, would be published in the coming days. Candidates can access the information bulletin at natboard.edu.in, for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details. The NBE appealed to the masses to ignore advertisements published in a few newspapers that had said the exams would be conducted in January.

HC asks police to produce chargesheet against Zubair

The Delhi Police told the High Court on Thursday that it had not found any criminality against fact-checking website Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair in a case lodged against him for allegedly threatening and torturing a minor on social media. Taking note of the submissions, the court asked the police to place the chargesheet filed in the case before it. The court also asked police to give a copy to Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Natraj, who is representing the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the matter. PTI

Court rejects Venugopal Dhoot's plea against arrest

A Mumbai court on Thursday rejected a plea filed by Videocon Group chairman Venugopal Dhoot, challenging his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Videocon-ICICI Bank loan case. Mr. Dhoot was arrested on December 26, 2022 by the Central agency and is currently lodged at Taloja Central Jail. He challenged his arrest on the grounds that the CBI mechanically arrested him two days after ICICI Bank's chief executive officer and managing director Chanda Kochhar, and her husband Deepak, were arrested. The advocate for Mr. Dhoot argued that he has been cooperating with the CBI, and called the arrest illegal. Mr. Dhoot was sent to judicial custody on December 29 for 14 days.

As Joshimath sinks, all projects stopped

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

With residents of the Joshimath town reporting frequent landslips and hundreds of houses in the hill town in Uttarakhand developing cracks, the district administration has issued orders to stop all construction work.

The Tapovan Vishnugad hydropower project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), work on the Helang bypass of the Border Roads Organisation and the operation of the Auli ropeway, one of Asia's longest, were stopped.

With houses in Joshimath developing dangerous cracks, allegedly due to the construction activity, residents are in panic. On Thursday, people under the banner of Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS) staged a day-long protest. Traffic was severely affected on the Badrinath National Highway till 4 p.m., leaving tourists stranded. The people took out a march demanding their immediate evacuation from the town and stoppage of the NTPC's construction work.

The Chamoli district administration, later, pacified the protesters by ordering a ban on construction work related to the hydropower project and even the Helang bypass.

Bhuwan Chandra Uniyal, chief priest of the Badrinath temple situated next to Joshimath, said, "The Joshimath town is now breathing its last. Spread the voice of this Himalayan region across the country."

Fiery stir: A torchlight demonstration by residents of Joshimath on Wednesday demanding action by the government. ANI

Additional District Magistrate Abhishek Tripathi told *The Hindu* that four families were moved to safer locations on Thursday and all types of construction activity had been banned in the town. "So far, the administration has evacuated 38 families from their damaged homes and they have been moved to a rehabilitation centre operating in a community hall," he said.

The district administration has also issued orders to the NTPC and the Hindustan Construction Company (HCC) to set up 2,000 prefabricated buildings to act as shelters for families being shifted.

'Delay in action'

"Why has the government now banned construction work when we are on the verge of sinking? Why didn't they pay heed to us earlier," JBSS convener Atul asked.

The Uttarakhand Chief Minister's Office has sent a team of officials from the Disaster Management Department to take stock of the situation which is also being monitored by the Prime Minister's Office, said sources.

The team of Garhwal Commissioner Sushil Kumar, Disaster Management Secretary Ranjit Kumar Sinha, Disaster Management Executive Officer Piyush Rautela, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Deputy Commandant Rohitas Mishra, Landslide Mitigation Centre scientist Santoon Sarkar, and experts from the IIT, Roorkee reached Joshimath on Thursday to take stock of the situation.

Conversion laws of five States challenged

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind on Thursday asked the Supreme Court to declare the religious conversion laws of five States – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat – as unconstitutional, stating that they bring the personal decision of an individual to adopt another faith under state scrutiny.

"The scrutiny by the state of a personal decision to convert is a grave assault on personal liberty of an individual and violates Articles 21 (right to dignity, privacy) and 25 (freedom of religion) of the Constitution," the Jamiat said.

UGC unveils draft norms to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India

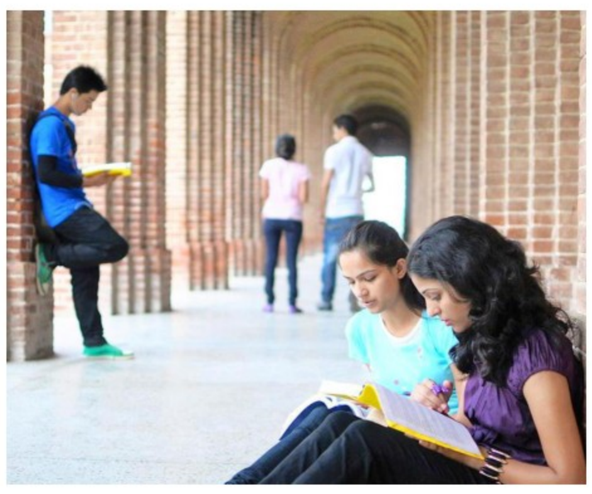
Such institutions can evolve their own admission processes and criteria to admit domestic and foreign students; they will also have autonomy to decide the fee structure with no caps imposed

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced draft norms for facilitating foreign universities and educational institutions to set up campuses in India which allow them autonomy in determining fees, as well as a 90-day approval process. The final norms will be notified by the end of the month after feedback from all stakeholders.

A foreign university with a rank among the top 500 global rankings or a foreign educational institution of repute in home jurisdiction can apply to the UGC to set up a campus in India.

"The new National Education Policy [NEP], 2020 has envisioned that top universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. For this, a legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India," UGC Chairperson M. Jagadesh Kumar said at a press conference.



A standing committee will review applications based on an institution's credibility and programmes offered. ISTOCKPHOTO

The application will be considered by a standing committee appointed by the UGC which will submit its recommendations within 45 days after examining the institution's credibility, programmes offered, their potential to strengthen educational opportunities in India, proposed academic infrastructure.

Subsequently, within 45 days, the UGC may grant in-principle approval to the foreign institution to set up campuses in India within two years. The initial approval will be for 10 years, which can be extended.

'Reasonable fees'

Such a campus can evolve its own admission process and criteria to admit domestic and foreign students. It will also have autonomy to decide its fee structure, and will face no caps that are imposed on Indian institutions. The fee should be "reasonable and transparent".

It will also have autonomy to recruit faculty and staff from India and abroad. The courses to be offered cannot be in online and open and distance learning mode.

The qualifications awarded to the students on the Indian campus should have equivalence with those awarded by the institutions in their country of origin.

Foreign higher education institutions will also be allowed cross-border movement of funds and maintenance of foreign currency accounts, mode of payments, remittance, repatriation, and sale of proceeds, under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and its Rules and an audit report will have to be submitted to the UGC.

"The UGC should ensure equal amount of academic, administrative and financial autonomy to Indian universities as much as foreign universities might be entitled to. Such a level playing field will ensure progressive competition and increase overall quality and excellence in Indian higher education," said S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Vice-Chancellor of SASTRA Deemed University in Tamil Nadu.

House panel seeks details of rental housing scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The programme is for the urban poor, especially migrant workers who are an integral part of the economy

A parliamentary panel has asked the government to clarify how many of the 66 proposals received under the Affordable Rental Housing Scheme launched for the urban poor, especially migrant workers, during the COVID-19 pandemic have been approved by the respective urban bodies.

The Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Ministry had informed Parliament that 66 proposals had been received from public and private entities for the construction of 1,02,019 units in 18 States and Union Territories which are being evaluated by the respective urban local bodies and are in the process of getting approvals.

The Parliamentary Committee on Assurances of the Rajya Sabha said in its December 21 report that the implementation report of the Union Ministry did not clearly mention how many proposals were in the process of getting approvals.

The committee said that reverse migration during COVID-19 had exposed the harsh realities of millions of invisibles who lived in cities and were an integral part of the urban economy, but had no place in urban planning and housing programmes. "Schemes such as the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) may give them a ray of hope and instil faith in the country's governance," the panel said.

"The committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry should proactively complete the construction of these affordable pro-poor rental houses under the scheme and furnish the revised implementation report incorporating the details...," it said.

The ARHC had been launched as a sub-scheme of the existing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) to provide affordable rental housing to the urban poor, especially migrants, close to their workplace.

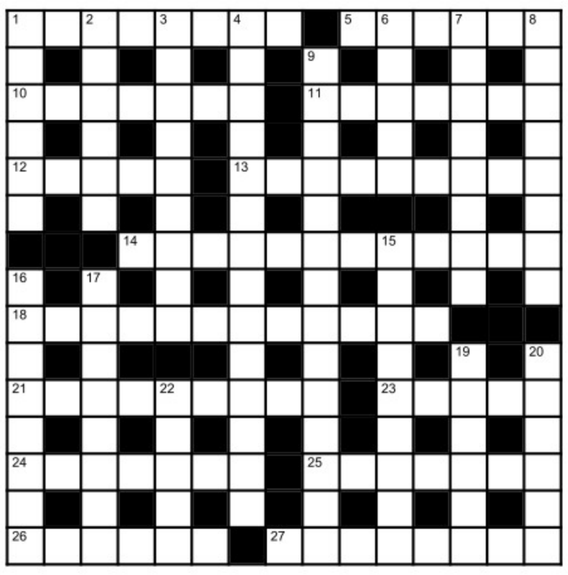
The scheme is implemented through two models. Model-1 was utilising existing government-funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through public private partnership or by public agencies and Model-2 was the construction, operation and maintenance of ARHCs by public/private entities on their available vacant land.

TH CROSSWORD + 13756

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Material damage started with original killer (8)
5 Tourist resort preserves, has nice exteriors (6)
10 Fancy water park surrounding New Port (7)
11 A bachelor party, men are after little Mary? (7)
12 Scale for mathematician - Lagrange finally went for arithmetic at first (5)
13 Warhorse has energy to dance in the carnival (5-4)
14 Opposed to explosive gas - contain it (12)
18 Spirits recover lost prestige (12)
21 Stopped the dog, followed later (9)
23 Arrive before a child is admitted (5)
24 Holy city - there is no model construction set (7)
25 One making claims to be religious (7)
26 Hold light houses - extremely laborious (6)
27 Following a representation, first class review on a complaint (8)

Down

1 Nothing much, just a gallon saved (6)
2 Upset toy (6)
3 Permit opening, not hard to capture King (9)
4 August almost gone, everyone inside gets eight pints (8,6)
6 Drink over two days will spoil (5)
7 Extremely nifty - speed set out for attractive young women (8)
8 Chains at sea limiting dead weight of submarine, perhaps (8)
9 Wild marigold, find it acceptable (4,2,8)
15 Trainee without name - another name cut short, among other things (5,4)
16 Rodents raised in small cage, for example (8)
17 Forming a circle online, it's like back office work (8)
19 Heat of battle over four weeks? Not on! (6)
20 Drinks and dance (3-3)
22 Call came for completely exposing the old mission in Texas (5)

SUDOKU

5	2	9				4		
4		7		2				
			5	3		7	2	
		4			9	2		6
				5				
2		3	7			5		
	1	8		9	5			
				7		6		5
		5				8	1	7

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	R	A	C	K	O	F	D	A
A	■	R	■	E	■	L	■	T
C	U	R	I	A	■	O	R	R
H	■	I	■	T	■	O	■	O
E	A	V	E	S	D	R	O	P
P	■	A	■	■	■	E	■	H
O	I	L	S	E	E	D	■	Y
T	■	S	■	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	G	E	D	■	H
A	■	D	■	L	■	E	■	U
D	I	R	G	E	■	C	O	N
O	■	A	■	E	■	L	■	C
N	A	P	P	Y	R	A	S	H
I	■	E	■	E	■	R	■	E
S	O	D	■	D	E	E	R	S

W	■	S	A	C	■	■	■	■
L	■	T	■	O	■	H	■	U
O	O	T	R	I	S	R	O	O
O	■	T	■	G	■	L	■	■
P	■	A	C	U	T	E	■	■
H	■	L	■	N	■	T	■	■
A	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	I	■	H	■	U	■	■
R	O	U	T	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	M	■	I	■	■	■	■
N	G	E	R	E	E	L	■	■
■	X	■	S	■	I	■	■	■
T	O	I	L	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	1	9	4	5	8	2	7
5	4	7	1	2	8	3	9	6
9	8	2	6	7	3	4	1	5
8	2	5	4	1	7	9	6	3
1	7	3	8	6	9	5	4	2
4	6	9	3	5	2	7	8	1
2	9	8	5	3	1	6	7	4
7	5	6	2	9	4	1	3	8
3	1	4	7	8	6	2	5	9

FAITH

Siva's glee in Tiruvadarai kali

Devotees always present a range of offerings to God. However, anything offered with a pure heart is enough for Him. God is happy to accept the humblest of offerings. Saivite saint Sendhanar never consumed a meal unless he had fed a mendicant first, a principle so high that Siva Himself decided to honour the devotee by accepting his offering in person, as evident from Arudra Darisanam, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

While a number of festivals are celebrated at the Chidambaram Nataraja Temple, Arudra Darisanam attracts lakhs of devotees. It is observed on the day of Tiruvadarai star in the month of Margazhi.

Legend has it that Siva wanted to guide his devotees to a fulfilling life through the life of Sendhanar. Born in Thiruvennkadu, Sendhanar relocated to Chidambaram, eking out a living as a woodcutter. He and his wife never had their meal until they fed a sivanadiyar first (atidhi bhojanam). One rainy day, his wife prepared a simple kali from broken rice and jaggery, but no one came to partake of it. Sendhanar prayed to the Lord and soon a mendicant appeared who not only relished the kali but also asks for the leftovers to be packed.

Next morning the town was in uproar as the dikshidhars found kali strewn over the floor of the sanctum sanctorum in Nataraja temple; even the idol has kali smeared over it. The king orders the arrest of Sendhanar. None can find him. The next day, when the temple chariot reaches a certain spot, it halts completely. Suddenly, a voice rings out, "*Sendhanare! emakku tiruppallandu paadum*" (sing for me). A flustered Sendhanar renders 13 songs.

VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis leads final farewell to Benedict XVI before thousands

GETTY IMAGES

Pope Francis led the funeral of Benedict XVI on Thursday at St. Peter's Square. Scarlet-clad cardinals, dignitaries and thousands of priests and nuns gathered to say goodbye to the German theologian, who stunned the Catholic Church by becoming the first pontiff in six centuries to resign. AFP

PALESTINE

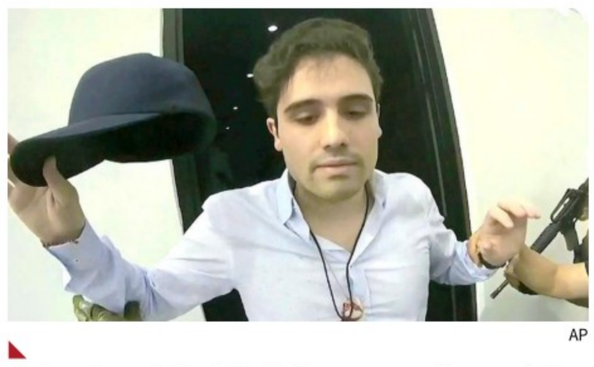
Israeli forces kill Palestinian boy in West Bank's Nablus amid clashes

REUTERS

The Israeli Army killed a Palestinian boy on Thursday in the West Bank city of Nablus, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, where armed clashes broke out between militants and Israeli forces. The Ministry announced "Amer Abu Zeitoun, 16, was killed by a bullet in the head fired by the soldiers during the aggression on Nablus". AFP

DRUG CARTEL

Mexico arrests Ovidio Guzman, son of 'drug kingpin El Chapo'



AP

Mexican drug cartel leader Ovidio Guzman, a son of incarcerated kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, has been arrested by Mexican authorities, five officials familiar with the matter told *Reuters* on Thursday. News of the capture came after a night of violence in the city of Culiacan in the northern State of Sinaloa. REUTERS

MINSK

Belarus Nobel Prize winner Ales Bialiatski goes on trial

AFP

Jailed Nobel Prize winner Ales Bialiatski went on trial in Minsk on Thursday and supporters see as a bid to clamp down on Viasna, Belarus's top rights group. He was jailed after demonstrations in 2020, when President Alexander Lukashenko claimed victory in elections deemed fraudulent by the international community. AFP

No action from govt. on Tamils' concerns, says TNA

The alliance says it would 'rethink' its decision to engage in talks with President Wickremesinghe, unless his government reports 'actual progress' at the next scheduled discussion on January 10

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Need action: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and M.A. Sumanthiran in Parliament in Colombo in 2018. AP

Citing the "lack of any action" by the government on Tamils' urgent demands, Sri Lanka's Tamil National Alliance (TNA) said it would "rethink" its decision to engage in talks with President Ranil Wickremesinghe, unless his government reports "actual progress" at the next scheduled discussion on January 10.

"We have been highlighting three specific areas for immediate action – the release of political prisoners, answers to families of [forcibly] disappeared persons, and the persisting land grabs in the north and east. Despite making promises, the government is yet to take any action," TNA spokesman and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran told media on Thursday, following the third meeting between the Alliance and the President.

While the contours of a political solution are to be discussed in the next meeting on January 10, the TNA said it would rethink its decision to engage beyond that, if there is still no progress in the government's response to the three critical issues. Thursday's meeting follows an all-party discussion held on December 13, and another round of talks between the TNA and the President on December 22, after Mr. Wickremesinghe pledged in Parliament to solve the country's long-pending national question before February 4, 2023, when Sri Lanka will mark its 75th anniversary of Independence.

"We have consistently sought meaningful devolution, and firmly believe it is possible only within a federal arrangement... the President not only expressed confidence that we can arrive at such a solution but has also committed to a timeline for this exercise," Mr. Sumanthiran told Parliament on Thursday.

Elusive solution

As the largest grouping representing Tamils in the north and east the TNA has been involved in negotiations with many leaders for decades, but a political solution remains elusive. While past disappointments made the TNA "sceptical" of talks with the government, the Alliance decided to participate in earnest, the Tamil MP said, to avoid blame that they did not engage when an offer was made. On the other hand, the Tamil National People's Front (TNPF), which has two MPs, has taken a position that there is no point engaging with the President, unless he explicitly agrees to a federal solution.

India has consistently highlighted the need for "meaningful power devolution" in Sri Lanka. Intervening in the debate on Sri Lanka's rights record at the UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva in October 2022, India observed that Sri Lanka's progress on that front was "inadequate".

Meanwhile, the North East Coordinating Committee, a civil society group, on Thursday staged demonstrations across the two provinces urging all political parties to demand a federal model.

Civic organisations have also been seeking the release of Tamils held under the draconian Prevention of Terrorism (PTA) Act for decades. The Solidarity Movement for North East People's Struggle in a statement asked the government to release 33 long-term PTA detainees as a "first step" towards reconciliation.

Five children among eight found dead in Utah home

Associated Press
SALT LAKE CITY

Eight family members, five of them children, were found dead from gunshot wounds in a southern Utah home, according to authorities.

The victims were found on Wednesday when police did a welfare check at the residence, according to city officials in Enoch, a small town of about 8,000 people located 245 miles south of Salt Lake City. Police said they did not detect any threat to the public. Enoch City Manager Rob Dotson said the community was sent reeling by news of the eight bodies and that the deceased – all members of one family – were well known in the southern Utah town.

Stalemate in Speaker race continues as McCarthy fails to win lawmakers' support

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Kevin McCarthy

House Republicans are at a crossroads as leader Kevin McCarthy has failed over and over again to become House Speaker, but he remains determined to persuade enough conservative holdouts to vote for him and end the stalemate.

What started as a political novelty, the first time in 100 years a nominee has not won the gavel on the first vote, has devolved into a bitter Republican Party feud and deepening potential crisis.

Mr. McCarthy is under growing pressure from restless Republicans, and Democrats, to find the votes he needs or step aside, so the House can open fully and get on with the business of governing. His right-flank detractors appear intent on waiting him out, as long as it takes.

"No deal yet," Mr. McCarthy said late Wednesday before the House abruptly adjourned. "But a lot of progress."

The House, which is one-half of Congress, is essentially at a standstill as Mr. McCarthy has failed, one vote after another, to win the speaker's gavel in a grueling spectacle for all the world to see. The ballots have produced almost the same outcome, 20 conservative holdouts still refusing to support him and leaving him far short of the 218 typically needed to win the gavel. In fact, Mr. McCarthy saw his support slipping to 201, as one fellow Republican switched to vote simply present.

"I think people need to work a little more," Mr. McCarthy said on Wednesday as they prepared to adjourn for the night.

Mr. McCarthy has vowed to fight to the finish for the Speaker's job that had thrown the new majority into tumult for the first days of the new Congress.

800 Russian soldiers killed in one day, claims Ukraine Army

Reuters
KYIV

Ukraine's military estimated on Thursday that 800 Russian soldiers were killed in the past day, mostly in fighting in the eastern Donetsk region, while Western allies pledged supplies of armoured battle vehicles but not the tanks Ukraine wants.

Giving its regular morning roundup of the fighting, Ukraine's military said Russian forces were focused on an offensive in the Bakhmut sector and its attacks in the Avdiivka and Kupiansk sectors were unsuccessful. It said more than 800 Russian soldiers, one aircraft, a helicopter and three tanks were destroyed over the past day.

It also reported an unspecified number of civilian casualties as a result of Russian air, missile and rocket attacks on the largely ruined, Ukrainian-held city of Bakhmut and two other cities in the Donetsk region – Kostiantynivka and Kurakhove.

Russia denies claims

Russia denies targeting civilians in what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Reuters could not independently verify battlefield accounts.

A senior U.S. administration official on Wednesday gave a sobering assessment of fighting in the Donetsk region, especially around Bakhmut.

In his evening video address, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Ukrainian troops outside Bakhmut were inflicting numerous losses on their adversaries and Russia was building up its forces in the region.

Taliban to sign oil extraction deal with Chinese firm

Reuters
KABUL

The Taliban-led administration is to sign a contract with a Chinese company to extract oil from the Amu Darya basin, the Acting Mining Minister said on Thursday. It would be signed with Xinjiang Central Asia Petroleum and Gas Co., officials said.

It will be the first major public commodities extraction deal the Taliban has signed with a foreign company since 2021.

William knocked me to floor: Prince Harry

Reuters
LONDON

Britain's Prince Harry says in an upcoming book that his older brother and heir to the throne Prince William knocked him to the floor during a 2019 argument over his wife Ms. Meghan, *the Guardian* reported on Wednesday.

The Guardian said it had obtained a copy of the memoir, "Spare," which is due to be published on January 10. Mr. Harry is due to appear in two television interviews to promote the book but the Guardian report reveals actual passages. "He grabbed me by the collar, ripping my necklace, and he knocked me to the floor," he writes.

"I landed on the dog's bowl, which cracked under my back, the pieces cutting into me. I lay there for a moment, dazed, then got to my feet and told him to get out." Mr. William then challenged his younger brother to hit back but he refused. Mr. William later returned, "looking regretful, and apologised," Mr. Harry writes. Spokespeople of King Charles and Prince William declined to comment on the report.

Mr. William and Mr. Harry, the sons of King Charles, were once seen as very close after the death of their mother Diana in a Paris car crash in 1997.

But they have fallen out in recent years. Since Mr. Harry and Ms. Meghan moved to California they have delivered stinging criticism of the British monarchy and accusations of racism, accusations that the family has dismissed.

THE HINDU GROUP

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In conversation with
Dr Ashok Dalwai
CEO, National Rainfed
Area Authority

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10 AM - 6 PM

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INBRIEF

Capital infusion in VIL is under discussion: Vaishnaw

Debt-ridden telecom firm Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL) has various requirements, including infusion of capital, and discussions on this front are going on, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday. "The responsibility of capital has to come from various sources," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "The company just doesn't require conversion. It requires capital. All those things are a complex issue," he added. PTI

SEBI lets govt.'s IDBI stake to be classified 'public' post sale

Markets regulator SEBI has allowed the government's shareholding in IDBI Bank to be reclassified as "public" after its stake sale on the condition that its voting rights do not exceed 15%, the lender said on Thursday. The government, with a more than 45% stake in IDBI Bank, is currently classified as a co-promoter of the lender. The government is looking to sell its 30.48% stake in IDBI Bank, while LIC will offload its 30.24% share in the lender. REUTERS

Gem and jewellery council names new leadership team

The All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), the national apex body of the gems and jewellery industry, has announced the appointment of Saiyam Mehra as Chairman and Rajesh Rokde as Vice Chairman for a period of two years (2023-24). GJC said that the entire e-voting process was conducted by an authorised independent person (chief election authority), and the voting platform was created by a digital agency, both appointed by the council.

Retail auto sales slid in Dec., to take hit in Q4, says FADA

Stricter fuel efficiency norms from April may trigger price increases, result in weaker sales, says group; two-wheelers, which account for 60%-70% of total sales, dropped 11.2% to 11,33,138 units

Reuters
BENGALURU

Retail sales of vehicles in India could take a hit in the final quarter of the current fiscal year, an automobile dealers' body said on Thursday while reporting a more than 5% year-on-year fall in sales for December at 1.62 million units.

India has mandated automakers to comply with stricter fuel efficiency norms from April 2023, aimed at reducing carbon emissions. This, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said, would trigger further price increases and result in weaker sales for the quarter ending March 31.

In lower gear

Sales at top bike and scooter makers fell amid higher inflation, increased ownership costs, and a soft rural market

- Higher electric vehicle sales had hurt the internal combustion engine based 2-wheeler segment
- Passenger vehicle (PV) sales for December rose 8.2% to 2,80,016 units
- PV numbers recorded an all-time high of more than 3.43 million units in 2022

Auto sales numbers are keenly watched, as they are one of the key indicators to assess private consumption. FADA data on Thursday showed sales of two-wheelers, which account for 60%-70% of total vehicle sales, dropped 11.2% to 11,33,138 units.

FADA said sales at top bike and scooter makers fell due to higher inflation, higher ownership costs, and as the rural market was yet to pick up fully. It also noted increased electric-vehicle sales had hurt the internal combustion engine segment.

Passenger vehicle sales for the month rose 8.2% to 2,80,016 units and at an all-time high of more than 3.43 million units in 2022.

Amazon job cuts to exceed 18,000: CEO

Reuters

Amazon.com Inc.'s layoffs will now increase to more than 18,000 roles as part of a workforce reduction it previously disclosed, Chief Executive Andy Jassy wrote in a public staff note.

The decisions, which will be communicated from January 18, will largely impact e-commerce and human-resources, he said.

Swift turn

The cuts amount to 6% of Amazon's roughly 3,00,000-person corporate workforce and represent a swift turn for a retailer that recently doubled its base pay ceiling to compete more aggressively for talent.

Amazon has more than 1.5 million workers including warehouse staff, making it America's largest private employer after Walmart Inc.

Amazon has braced for likely slower growth as soaring inflation encouraged businesses and consumers to cut back spending and its share price has halved in the past year.

Its layoffs now surpass the 11,000 cuts announced last year by Facebook-parent Meta Platforms Inc.

'Capital goods firms' sales to grow 16-18%'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

This makes for two consecutive strong years for sector that saw sluggish growth in the decade to FY21

Capital goods firms are expected to see revenue growth of 16-18% this fiscal – despite a high base of 20% growth last financial year – on improved execution amid rising orders, Crisil said in a report.

"Revenue growth is expected to remain healthy, in double digits, at 10-12% next fiscal as well, supported by a strong order backlog and steady inflow of fresh orders. This takes forward two consecutive strong years for a sector that saw sluggish growth in the decade through fiscal 2021," the agency said.

"Along with higher commodity prices, rising government and private sector spend on infrastructure and steady improvement in private capital expenditure in consumption-based sectors, including due to investment in production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, have resulted in strong order book growth."

Coal output grew 10.8% in December: Ministry data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's coal production increased by 10.8% in December to almost 83 million tonnes (MT) from 74.8 MT a year earlier, with coal despatched from pitheads to consuming industries increasing 5.28% to almost 79 MT.

As per provisional data from the Coal Ministry, December 2022 was the second straight month of double-digit growth in coal output. Production levels for the first nine months of 2022-23 were 16.4% higher at 608 MT, compared with 522.34 MT produced in the same period of 2021-22.

Coal production has a weightage of 10.3% in the Index of Core Industries (ICI), which in turn constitutes about 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Slowed in October

Coal production growth had slowed from 12% in September to 3.7% in October when core sectors grew just 0.9% and the IIP showed a 4% decline in India's factory output.

In November, coal was one of the four core sectors to record double-digit growth, with output rising 12.3%. electricity output grew 12.1% and steel's rose 10.8%, while cement production rose 28.6%, even as the eight core sectors averaged 5.4% growth.

Coal despatches to power utilities increased by 4.26% to 65.65 MT during December 2022, the Ministry said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	60,353	-0.50
US Dollar	82.45	0.38
Gold	55,994	-0.24
Brent oil	78.6	0.28

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3829.80	2.75
Adani Ports	819.60	9.60
Apollo Hosp	4429.05	-4.25
Asian Paints	3004.35	-12.50
Axis Bank	949.55	-7.90
Bajaj Auto	3621.15	68.30
Bajaj Finserv	1468.85	-79.00
Bajaj Finance	6100.05	-470.95
Bharti Airtel	807.10	-4.70
BPCL	342.35	6.05
Britannia Ind	4313.20	78.20
Cipla	1088.35	21.45
Coal India	218.15	1.00
Divis Lab	3461.85	26.30
Dr Reddys Lab	4297.50	44.00
Eicher Motors	3257.70	42.45
Grasim Ind	1698.30	8.00
HCL Tech	1044.10	7.50
HDFC	2621.60	-4.10
HDFC Bank	1599.70	-10.35
HDFC Life	609.45	10.85
Hero MotoCorp	2767.15	57.85
Hindalco	465.70	4.20
Hind Unilever	2583.70	47.60
ICICI Bank	879.15	-19.95
IndusInd Bank	1215.85	-7.25
Infosys	1475.20	-19.60
ITC	333.45	6.45
JSW Steel	750.70	14.40
Kotak Bank	1820.30	-0.45
L&T	2087.35	16.80
M&M	1252.65	16.45
Maruti Suzuki	8461.10	38.30
NestleIndia	19776.00	256.10
NTPC	169.90	3.30
ONGC	146.50	0.25
PowerGrid Corp	208.80	-2.25
Reliance Ind	2514.05	-4.50
SBI Life	1267.65	8.60
State Bank	605.10	-0.10
Sun Pharma	1016.20	12.10
TataConsumerProduct	763.85	1.60
Tata Motors	386.90	1.30
Tata Steel	116.55	0.80
TCS	3311.10	-3.55
Tech Mahindra	1011.65	-8.65
Titan	2562.10	-35.45
UltraTech Cement	7007.00	1.65
UPL	720.30	4.65
Wipro	386.90	-2.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 05

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.36	82.68
Euro	87.40	87.78
British Pound	99.02	99.45
Japanese Yen (100)	62.18	62.43
Chinese Yuan	11.98	12.03
Swiss Franc	88.80	89.20
Singapore Dollar	61.49	61.75
Canadian Dollar	60.99	61.22
Malaysian Ringitt	18.76	18.85
Australian Dollar	56.21	56.44

Source:Indian Bank

'Huge green hydrogen subsidy distorts trade'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India believes huge subsidies announced by some developed countries for their green hydrogen sectors can distort trade and is in violation of World Trade Organization (WTO) norms, Power Minister R.K. Singh said.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Singh said that the big subsidies were a challenge for the industry in India as it aims to emerge as the most cost-competitive source of green hydrogen in the world.

As one of the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters, India is betting on green hydrogen to help cut its emissions, and enable it to reach its target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.

"The only challenge I face, which our industry faces, is huge subsidies announced by some developed countries on manufacturing green hydrogen," Mr. Singh said.

"We believe that to be a trade-distorting step, which I think is actionable under the WTO rules."

Industry wants import levy on natural rubber removed

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA) has urged the government to not impose further restrictions on the import of rubber compounds.

The industry imported 1,12,500 tonnes in 2021 under the '4005 Compounded rubber, unvulcanised, in primary forms or in plates, sheets or strip' category to make products such as conveyor belts and hoses, AIRIA president Ramesh Kejriwal said.

The government levied 10% basic duty, 18% IGST and 10% surcharge.

The import levy on natural rubber comprises basic duty 25%, additional duty 5% and surcharge 10%. AIRIA wants the government to remove the duty. In India, production of natural rubber is insufficient to meet the demand (consumption) of 12.38 lakh tonnes (2021-2022).

Mr. Kejriwal said India did not produce rubber EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer) and its prices had doubled due to the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. Hence, the Centre should not only encourage production of rubber EPDM (synthetic rubber), but also reduce the import duty, he added.

He also urged against giving duty sops under bilateral trade pacts for rubber products.

RBI asks bank customers to update KYC in some cases

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked bank customers to update their KYC by furnishing a fresh KYC or re-KYC in certain cases.

"A fresh KYC process/ documentation may have to be undertaken in certain cases, including where the KYC documents available in bank records do not conform to present list of the officially valid documents," the apex bank said in a circular.

'Russia shipping more Arctic crude to India'

Reuters
SINGAPORE/NEW DELHI

Russia is sending more crude oil produced in the Arctic to China and India, and at steeper discounts, after Europe slammed its doors shut on Russian supplies last month, trade sources and data show.

Sellers are selling the Russian crudes at bigger discounts as they absorb higher shipping costs.

"All these Arctic crudes usually go to the EU but now they have to go elsewhere," a Singapore-based trader said.

Arctic crude exports to India have steadily risen since May, with a record 6.67 million barrels loaded in November and 4.1 million barrels in December, Refinitiv data showed.

The gross product margins from processing grades such as Arco and Novy Port bought on a delivered basis are more than $10 a barrel higher compared with similar quality U.S. crudes such as Mars , one of the sources at an Indian refiner said.

Bharat Petroleum did not respond to a request for comments.

Sport

Jagdish Vishwakarma takes the honours in men's 96kg category

NATL. WEIGHTLIFTING

K. Keerthivasan
NAGERCOIL

Services' Jagdish Vishwakarma remained calm under pressure to claim the senior men's 96kg gold with a total of 335kg, three kg ahead of RSPB's Harshad Wadekar, in the National weightlifting championships here on Thursday.

The 25-year-old, training with the Army Sports Institute (Pune) finished first in snatch (149kg) ahead of Harshad (146), but in clean & jerk, even though both had an identical lift of 186kg, Harshad emerged the winner for having cleared it first.

Holding his own: Jagdish beat back the challenge of Harshad to emerge on top. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

In snatch, Jagdish appeared good in all three attempts. His technique was perfect in the first, and in the second, he went two steps backward after the completion of the lift.

In the third, he almost did the same. Harshad cleared 146kg before twice failing to clear 150.

In clean & jerk, Harshad was outstanding in his first two lifts, clearing 180 & 186 before erring on his third attempt of 193. Jagdish, who then cleared 182 & 186, went for an ambitious 194 but failed.

"This is my first gold medal at the Senior Nationals. There is not much competition at this level for me.

"I prepared for one year for the Nationals. I am keen to win a medal at the Commonwealth Championships to be held in Delhi in July 2023," said Jagdish.

The results:

96kg: Men: Senior: 1. Jagdish Vishwakarma (SSCB) 149, 186, 335; 2. Harshad Wadekar (RSPB) 146, 186, 332; 3. Vaishnav Thakur (Mah) 142, 182, 324.

Junior: 1. Alok Yadav (UP) 126, 179, 305; 2. Rahul (Har) 134, 168, 302; 3. Dilbag Singh (Pun) 133, 165, 298.

Youth: 1. Suvansh Thakur (HP) 125, 151, 276; 2. Ankur Tiware (Mah) 124, 150, 274; 3. N. Narasimha Nayak (AP) 118, 153, 271.

Thapa proves too good for Manish, enters 63.5kg summit clash

NATIONAL BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi
HISAR

In an exciting duel between two World championship medallists, Shiva Thapa got the better of Manish Kaushik in a 63.5kg semifinal bout in the National boxing championships on the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University campus here on Thursday.

Thapa, a six-time Asian medallist, showed his class to secure a 5-0 win and set up a title clash with Asian youth medallist Ankit Narwal.

In the much-anticipated match fought in cold conditions, and featuring two archrivals, who made comebacks after recovering from injuries, Thapa banked on his exemplary work ethics and superb fitness to outsmart Manish.

Thapa, who had suffered a knee injury in the Asian championships final in November, employed his agile feet to move in and out of Manish's grasp and used his fast hands to land accurate combinations.

Manish, who has recovered from a back injury, launched a few good counters, but Thapa increased the volume of his punches in the third round to take the bout.

In a friendly gesture, the seasoned Thapa, who had emerged victorious when the two last met at the Commonwealth Games trials, enquired Manish' well-being when they shook hands.

Twenty-year-old Abinash Jamwal fought from a long range with a big heart to shock Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Rohit Tokas 4-3 following a review of the bout.

The results (semifinals): 48kg: Govind Sahani (RSPB) bt Neeraj Swami (Del) 5-2, K.Sanjit Singh (Man) bt Himanshu Sharma (Pun) 5-2; **51kg:** Bishwamitra Chongthan (SSCB) bt Amarjeet Sharma (Pun) 5-0, Zoram Muana (Miz) bt Mohammad Arif (J-K) 5-0. **54kg:** Rajpinder Singh (Pun) bt Hritik (HP) 5-0, Sachin Siwach Jr (SSCB) bt P. Kishan Singh (Man) 5-0; **57kg:** Mohd. Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Ashish Kumar (HP) 5-0, Sachin Siwach (RSPB) bt Rushikesh Goud (Mah) 5-0. **60kg:** Varinder Singh (RSPB) bt Sunil Chauhan (UP) 5-0, Vijay Kumar (Pun) bt Dikshant Dahiya (Kar) 5-0; **63.5kg:** Shiva Thapa (Asm) bt Manish Kaushik (SSCB) 5-0, Ankit Narwal (RSPB) bt Ashish (AIP) 4-3.

67kg: Abinash Jamwal (HP) bt Rohit Tokas (RSPB) 4-3, Akash Sangwan (SSCB) bt Pralad Singh (Pun) 5-0; **71kg:** Nishant Dev (Kar) bt Sachin (SSCB) 5-0, Hemant Yadav (Del) bt Jashnpreet Singh (Pun) 5-0. **75kg:** Sumit Kundu (SSCB) bt Tinderpal Singh (Pun) 5-0, Nikhel Premnath (Mah) bt Pritesh Bishnoi (Raj) 5-0; **80kg:** Abhimanyu Loura (Har) bt Sanjay (SSCB) 5-0, Sahil (Chd) bt Chander Dev Singh (J-K) 5-0. **86kg:** Kartik (Pun) w.o. Manish Panwar (RSPB), Harsh Choudhary (Raj) bt Sumit (AIP) 5-0; **92kg:** Sanjeet (SSCB) bt Ashish Bhandor (HP) RSC-R2, Naveen Kumar (Har) bt Vishal Agari (Utk) RSC-R1. **+92kg:** Sagar Ahlawat (RSPB) bt Akash (Del) 5-0, Narender Berwal (SSCB) bt Jaipal Singh (Pun) 5-0.

SPECIAL MOMENT

Former Australian captain Belinda Clark gets statue honour

Former Australia captain Belinda Clark on Thursday became the first woman cricketer to have a sculpture unveiled in her honour. The World Cup-winning skipper, prolific run-scorer and key figure in the off-field development of the sport was immortalised in bronze outside the Sydney Cricket Ground.

NO WAY OUT

Lewandowski ban upheld ahead of Barcelona trip to Atletico

Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski's three-match ban was upheld by Spain's sports court on Wednesday and he will miss the visit to Atletico Madrid on Sunday in LaLiga. Barcelona will abide by the decision, having had the punishment suspended by another Madrid court last week, which allowed him to face Espanyol on Saturday.

ROUSING RECEPTION

Suarez welcomed by 30,000 fans at Brazil's Gremio Arena

More than 30,000 Gremio fans filled the Brazilian club's arena in Porto Alegre to welcome striker Luis Suarez. The 35-year-old signed a two-year contract in a free transfer after his deal with Uruguay's Nacional ended. It will be the eighth club in Suarez's career, which includes stints at Ajax, Liverpool, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid.

YOUNG ACHIEVER

Pranesh wins Rilton Cup, becomes India's 79th Grandmaster

Tamil Nadu's M. Pranesh became India's latest and 79th Grandmaster on Thursday. The 16-year-old, from Sivaganga, achieved the feat while taking the honours in the Rilton Cup in Stockholm, Sweden. The country had got its 78th GM a few days ago when Koustav Chatterjee became one.

Shanaka's blitz trumps Axar, Surya and Mavi's collective assault in the chase

India, set a daunting target of 207 by Sri Lanka and needing 33 runs off the last two overs, falls short by 16 runs; Kusal Mendis registers a half-century while Asalanka lends a good hand for the visitors; series level 1-1

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

In quest of a gargantuan target, when India loses five wickets in the first half of the chase, especially at new venues that are built outside the main city, the stands start emptying, hoping to beat the traffic more than hoping for a miracle on the ground.

But on Thursday night, none of the 30,460 spectators moved from their seat at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium, even when India was in doldrums at 57 for five in the 10th over, chasing an improbable 207-run mark. The reason: Suryakumar Yadav was at the crease.

Suryakumar, India's brightest spot in the shortest format in 2022, did his bit. But it was Axar Patel who brought the team back in the second T20I versus Sri Lanka. Even after Surykumar departed after a trademark fifty, Axar found an unlikely ally in Shivam Mavi.

He may not have been able to seal the series for India but Axar overshadowed Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka's onslaught that helped Sri Lanka put up the highest total in a T20I at the stadium. Shanaka's sensational hitting – registering Sri Lanka's fastest T20I fifty – was a fitting finale to Sri Lanka's innings, after a strong foundation laid by opener Kusal Mendis and Charith Asalanka's charge in the middle overs.

Going ballistic: Axar's amazing hitting brought India close to the target from nowhere. EMMANUAL YOGINI

In the end, the 68 runs that Shanaka and Chamika Karunaratne added in the last four overs – along with India's seven no-ball and four wides – turned out to be the decisive factor as Sri Lanka won by 16 runs, thus setting up a tantalising series-decider in Rajkot on Saturday.

Axar, though, was sensational with his pick-up shots. The all-rounder was phenomenal against pace and spin alike. His mockery of the spin duo of Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana was amazing. He read the turn and flight to precision, literally hitting the ball out of the park whenever he wished.

That he overshadowed Suryakumar during their 91-run association off just 40 balls in itself is a testament to his form on the night. Just when the partnership was appearing to be threatening, Suryakumar holed out to long-on off left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka.

Thanks to Mavi hitting Madushanka for 16 runs off three balls, the equation was brought down to 33 runs off the last two overs. But Kasun Rajitha – who opened the floodgates early on – conceded 12 runs in the penultimate over.

And Shanaka bowled a perfect last over to ensure Axar did not steal the limelight entirely from him.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka c Tripathi b Axar 33 *(35b, 4x4)*, Kusal Mendis lbw b Chahal 52 *(31b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa b Umran 2 *(3b)*, Charith Asalanka c Gill b Umran 37 *(19b, 4x6)*, Dhananjaya de Silva c Hooda b Axar 3 *(6b)*, Dasun Shanaka (not out) 56 *(22b, 2x4, 6x6)*, Wanindu Hasaranga b Umran 0 *(1b)*, Chamika Karunaratne (not out) 11 *(10b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-4, nb-7): 12; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 206.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-80 (Mendis, 8.2 overs), 2-83 (Rajapaksa, 9.1), 3-96 (Nissanka, 11.3), 4-110 (Dhananjaya, 13.4), 5-138 (Asalanka, 15.5), 6-138 (Hasaranga, 15.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Hardik 2-0-13-0, Arshdeep 2-0-37-0, Mavi 4-0-53-0, Axar 4-0-24-2, Chahal 4-0-30-1, Umran 4-0-48-3.

INDIA

Ishan Kishan b Rajitha 2 *(5b)*, Shubman Gill c Theekshana b Rajitha 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tripathi c Mendis b Madushanka 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Hasaranga b Madushanka 51 *(36b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Mendis b Karunaratne 12 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Deepak Hooda c Dhananjaya b Hasaranga 9 *(12b)*, Axar Patel c Karunaratne b Shanaka 65 *(31b, 3x4, 6x6)*, Shivam Mavi c Theekshana b Shanaka 26 *(15b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Umran Malik (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-10): 14; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 190.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (Kishan, 1.1), 2-21 (Gill, 1.6), 3-21 (Tripathi, 2.1), 4-34 (Hardik, 4.4), 5-57 (Hooda, 9.1), 6-148 (Suryakumar, 15.5), 7-189 (Axar, 19.3), 8-190 (Mavi, 19.6).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Madushanka 4-0-45-2, Rajitha 4-0-22-2, Karunaratne 4-0-41-1, Hasaranga 3-0-41-1, Theekshana 4-0-33-0, Shanaka 1-0-4-2.

Toss: India. **PoM:** Shanaka.

Sri Lanka won by 16 runs to level series 1-1.

Third and final T20I: Jan. 7, Rajkot, 7 p.m.

Khawaja on the verge of double century

Going great guns: Khawaja, right, was at home at the SCG, while Smith earned membership in an exclusive club. AP

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

An imperious Usman Khawaja was on the verge of a double century when rain interrupted Australia's run plunder against South Africa in the third Test here on Thursday.

Khawaja peeled off an unbeaten 195 for his highest Test score while Steve Smith passed a Don Bradman landmark with his 30th hundred.

At the rain-enforced close on day two, Australia was 475 for four with Matt Renshaw – who tested positive for Covid at the start of the match – batting on five.

Head joins in

Khawaja and Smith shared in a 209-run stand and Travis Head rammed home the initiative with a blistering 59-ball 70 to leave the visitors yet again facing an uphill task.

The red-hot Khawaja surpassed his previous highest score of 174, against New Zealand in Brisbane in 2015.

Smith more than played his part, passing Bradman's 29 Test tons with a majestic pull off Anrich Nortje to the boundary to claim a hometown hundred off 190 balls.

He was out two balls later for 104. Smith also overtook Michael Clarke to become Australia's fourth-highest Test run-getter with 8,647, behind Ricky Ponting, Allan Border and Steve Waugh.

Only Ponting (41) and Waugh (32) have scored more Test centuries for Australia than Smith, who is second only to the immortal Bradman (99.94) with a current Test average of 60.89 in his 92nd Test.

The scores:
Australia 475/4 in 131 overs (Usman Khawaja 195 batting, Marnus Labuschagne 79, Steve Smith 104, Travis Head 70) vs South Africa.

India reaches the pinnacle in 1975, plunges in 1978

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

1975, Kuala Lumpur (March 1-19)

The hockey World Cup came to Asia and saw India finally lift the trophy, for the only time, after a fighting performance throughout the tournament. It was also the first time a game was called off mid-way due to bad light and rescheduled.

India lost a group match in the tournament for the first time, losing 2-1 to Argentina, but managed to finish on top of the group, level on points with erstwhile West Germany but ahead on goal difference. India beat West Germany 3-1 in its final league match, a game originally objected to by both teams before being played for 45 minutes, abandoned and rescheduled three days later with India ahead 1-0.

In the semifinal against Malaysia and the final against Pakistan, India trailed before scoring the winner, in extra time by Harcharan Singh and Ashok Kumar respectively.

Top three: India, Pakistan, West Germany.

1978, Buenos Aires (March 18-April 1)

Pakistan won its second World Cup, getting the better of Holland 3-2 in the final. India's slide continued, following up on missing an Olympic medal for the first time ever in 1976 at Montreal and struggling to adjust and adapt to the new artificial turf surface.

India suffered a 7-0 humiliation to West Germany, lost to minnows Canada and played out a draw with England to miss out on a semifinal spot.

Pakistan, in contrast, steamrolled all opposition, scoring 31 goals in an unbeaten run through the league stage before overcoming the Germans in the semis and the Dutch in the final in a repeat of their league result. India rounded off with a loss to Spain to finish sixth.

Top three: Pakistan, Holland, Australia; **India:** Sixth.

On top of the world: The team that won India's only World Cup so far, in Kuala Lumpur in 1975. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Van de Zandschulp overpowers Marterer, Cilic out with knee injury

TATA OPEN

N. Sudarshan
PUNE

Marin Cilic pulling out with a knee injury ahead of his quarterfinal match on Thursday could have been the 'knocking the air out of your lungs' moment for Tata Open Maharashtra.

But second seed Botic van de Zandschulp ensured that there would be more than enough life left with a rousing performance to defeat German qualifier Maximilian Marterer 6-4, 6-2 and enter the semifinals.

The Dutchman may not be as expressive and charming as Cilic, and not quite the crowd favourite. His pursuit of on-court excellence is also stoic, with few overwhelming emotions on display. But he ruthlessly dismantled Marterer's game to remain on course for his maiden tour-level title.

Marterer was the early aggressor, and unlike van de Zandschulp's previous opponent Flavio Cobolli, played to keep points short. But the attempt to live a little braver than what was comfortable didn't pay off as the World No.35 picked him apart.

Van de Zandschulp served immaculately well, not facing a single breakpoint. That placed immense pressure on Marterer and the latter cracked in the ninth game of the first set, fluffing a backhand overhead, a backhand sliced volley and two forehands in succession. Van de Zandschulp calmly pocketed the set 6-4.

Marterer lost his serve again in the third game of the second stanza when he sent another volley long and saw van de Zandschulp nail a backhand pass on breakpoint. The 27-year-old's shoulders dropped and the springy steps were soon replaced by weary trudges. Van de Zandschulp's break to 5-2 and the subsequent hold hastened the end.

"It was a completely different match from yesterday (Wednesday)," van de Zandschulp said later. "He (Marterer) was playing aggressive. I served really well today, made a lot of returns, played a lot more consistently. It is completely different playing under the lights and it was kind of slow. But I managed it."

Earlier on the show court, the Indian pair of Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, who had sneaked into the main draw as alternates, upset the tournament's second-seeded Americans Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5) to make the last four.

There was however no such cheer for Ramkumar Ramanathan and his Mexican partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela, beaten as they were 6-2, 6-1 by top seeds and three-time Major winners Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury.

The results (quarterfinals):
Tallon Griekspoor (Ned) w/o. 1-Marin Cilic (Cro); 2-Botic van de Zandschulp (Ned) bt Maximilian Marterer (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; 8-Aslan Karatsev bt Pedro Martinez (Esp) 6-1, 6-2. **Doubles:** Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt 2-Nathaniel Lammons & Jackson Withrow (USA) 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5); 1-Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (GBR) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan & Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela 6-2, 6-1; Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt 6-Filip Krajinovic 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Semifinal line-up: 8-Karatsev vs. Griekspoor; Van de Zandschulp vs. Bonzi.

On top: Van de Zandschulp was ruthless against Marterer.

Ogbeche 'tricks as HFC goes to the top

ISL-9

Press Trust of India
MARGAO

Bartholomew Ogbeche produced a hat-trick as Hyderabad FC (HFC) went back to the top of the Indian Super League table after beating FC Goa 3-1 here on Thursday.

Halicharan Narzary picked out Ogbeche from the left flank, and the Nigerian striker placed his header to give HFC the lead in the 20th minute.

After Redeem Tiang levelled the score in the 54th minute, the host enjoyed most of the possession but wasn't able to turn that into goals.

Ogbeche restored HFC's lead in the 79th minute when he got on the end of a rebound.

The league's all-time top goalscorer got his hat-trick in the 90th minute, to confirm full points for HFC, with a sublime header.

The result:
FC Goa 1 (Tlang 54) lost to Hyderabad FC 3 (Ogbeche 20, 79, 90).

INBRIEF

Twin blows boost the Black Caps' victory hopes

New Zealand set Pakistan a tricky target of 319 and then landed two late blows to boost its hopes of a series-clinching victory in the second Test in Karachi on Thursday. Tim Southee declared on 277 for five with three overs left on the penultimate day. Pakistan could not open its account in those overs but lost opener Abdullah Shafique and nightwatchman Mir Hamza in dying light to find itself in a hole.

The scores: New Zealand 449 & 277/5 decl. (Latham 62, Williamson 41, Blundell 74, Bracewell 74 n.o.,) vs Pakistan 408 & 0/2 in 2.5 overs.

TRAU downs Sudeva Delhi, jumps to fourth place

TRAU FC jumped from sixth to fourth in the Hero I-League table with a 2-0 win over Sudeva Delhi FC in Imphal on Thursday. Ghanaian forward Nana Poku scored both the goals in the 39th and 54th minutes. With 16 points, the same as Real Kashmir, TRAU remained behind the latter in the table by head-to-head record. This was TRAU's fifth victory at home in as many matches.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 a.m.

Pakistan vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

Tata Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12 p.m. onwards.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Karnataka survives tense moments but gains the lead

Jose and Gowtham dig their team out of a hole after Chhattisgarh takes the upper hand with quick strikes in the morning session

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Karnataka survived a few tense moments before gaining the first-innings lead against Chhattisgarh on the third day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match here on Thursday.

Karnataka started the day comfortably placed at 202 for one, in response to Chhattisgarh's 311. The home team, however, lost five wickets in the morning session to go to lunch at 287 for six.

Saviour: Jose was all composure during his rescue act. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Tricky phase

It was left to Nikin Jose (67, 134b, 8x4, 1x6) and K. Gowtham (18, 24b, 3x4) to guide Karnataka through this tricky phase. Gowtham played a few attacking shots to ease the pressure, while Jose held one end up. The duo knocked off the 25 runs needed to get past Chhattisgarh's total, before Gowtham fell to a pull shot off left-arm spinner Ajay Mandal.

By this point, Karnataka was in the clear. The unit was eventually dismissed for 366.

For the second time in the match, Chhattisgarh openers Avnish Singh and Anuj Tiwary fell for ducks. Vidwath Kaverappa cleaned up Avnish in the third over, while V. Koushik got an inside edge to send back Tiwary.

Ashutosh Singh (8) and Amandeep Khare (23), stars of Chhattisgarh's first essay, were unfazed for 16.5 overs until bad light stopped play. Chhattisgarh, which trails by 20 runs, will need big knocks from both batters to avoid defeat on the final day.

Earlier, Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal managed to add only 15 runs to his overnight tally. Mayank returned for 117, taken by Mandal at mid-wicket off left-arm spinner Sumit Ruikar.

Flurry of wickets

Vishal Onat (32, 120b, 3x4) was run-out, going for a needless single to mid-off. Manish Pandey (5), who scored an unbeaten double century in the previous match, stepped out to Mandal and was stumped.

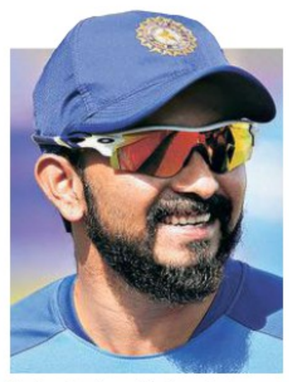
Chhattisgarh scalped Shreyas Gopal (23) and B.R. Sharath (6) in quick succession to take lunch on a high.

Jose's crucial knock was marked by clean technique and sound temperament. Jose, who came in at two-drop, dug Karnataka out of a hole and was the last batter to be dismissed.

The scores:
Chhattisgarh — 1st innings: 311.
Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c&b Mandal 81, Mayank Agarwal c Mandal b Ruikar 117, Vishal Onat (run out) 32, Nikin Jose lbw b Ruikar 67, Manish Pandey st Mayank b Mandal 5, Shreyas Gopal c Ashutosh b Majumdar 23, B.R. Sharath b Kiran 6, K. Gowtham c Ruikar b Mandal 18, Vyshak Vijaykumar b Shashank 6, V. Koushik lbw b Mandal 1, Vidwath Kaverappa (not out) 0; Extras (b-5, lb-2, nb-3): 10; Total (in 121.4 overs): 366.
Fall of wickets: 1-163, 2-230, 3-236, 4-241, 5-276, 6-287, 7-320, 8-339, 9-340.
Karnataka bowling: Kiran 25-4-62-1, Majumdar 20-1-89-1, Shashank 14-3-42-1, Mandal 37-5-93-4, Ruikar 25.4-4-73-2.
Chhattisgarh — 2nd innings: Avnish Singh b Kaverappa 0, Anuj Tiwary c Sharath b Koushik 0, Ashutosh Singh (batting) 8, Amandeep Khare (batting) 23; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 35.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 6-3-8-1, Koushik 8-3-7-1, Vyshak 5-0-15-0, Gowtham 1-0-1-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND FOUR, DAY THREE)

Elite: Group A: Nagaland 433 vs. Odisha 392/6 in 117 overs (Anurag Sarangi 84, Shantanu Mishra 134 batting, Subhranshu Senapati 67, Govinda Poddar 41, Prayash Singh 42 batting, Akash Singh 4/57).
Bengal 387 & 48/1 in 24 overs vs. Uttarakhand 272 in 105.3 overs (Kunal Chandela 136, Akhil Rawat 40, Abhay Negi 50, Pradipta Pramanik 4/58).
Haryana 365 in 116.2 overs (Ankit Kumar 174, Sumit Kumar 95, Aaqib Khan 4/73) vs. Uttar Pradesh 35/3 in 13 overs.
Baroda 355 vs. Himachal Pradesh 556/8 in 170 overs (Raghav Dhawan 56, Prashant Chopra 159, Ankit Kalsi 145, Amit Kumar 81, Praveen Thakur 47 batting, Ninad Rathva 4/124).
Group B: Andhra 135 & 462 in 107.3 overs (C.R. Gnaneshwar 72, Ricky Bhui 116, K.S. Bharat 89, Karan Shinde 105 n.o.) vs. Hyderabad 197 & 75/2 in 25 overs (Rohit Rayudu 46 batting).
Assam 274 & 65/0 in 30 overs vs. Maharashtra 594/9 decl. in 147 overs (Siddhesh Veer 106, Naushad Shaikh 47, Kedar Jadhav 283, Riyan Parag 4/165).
Delhi 133 & 227 in 63.5 overs (Ayush Badoni 40, Hrithik Shokeen 51, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya 5/91) lost to Saurashtra 574/8 decl. in 147.2 overs (Harvik Desai 107, Chirag Jani 75, Arpit Vasavada 152 n.o., Samarth Vyas 54, Prerak Mankad 64, Jaydev Unadkat 70, Hrithik Shokeen 4/244). **Points: Saurashtra 7 (19), Delhi 0 (2).**
Tamil Nadu 144 & 380/4 in 105 overs (B. Sai Sudharsan 68, B. Indrajith 103, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 107 batting, Vijay Shankar 43 batting) vs. Mumbai 481.
Group C: Chhattisgarh 311 & 35/2 in 20 overs vs. Karnataka 366 in 121.4 overs (R. Samarth 81, Mayank Agarwal 117, Nikin Jose 67, Ajay Mandal 4/93).
Pondicherry 216 & 128/6 in 41 overs vs. Services 466/7 decl. in 129 overs (Ravi Chauhan 43, Rahul Singh 137, Rajat Paliwal 101, Lovekesh Bansal 83 n.o., Pulkit Narang 45).
Kerala 265 & 172/6 in 55 overs (Rohan Prem 68 batting) vs. Goa 311 in 110.2 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 105, Darshan Misal 43, Jalaj Saxena 5/103).



Kedar Jadhav (Maharashtra, 283). FILE PHOTO

Jharkhand 92 & 330/6 in 110 overs (Kumar Deobrat 48, Aryaman Sen 119, Saurabh Tiwary 78) vs. Rajasthan 287.
Group D: Chandigarh 455/3 in 114.4 overs (Arslan Khan 73, Manan Vohra 200, Kunal Mahajan 162 batting) vs. Tripura. No play.
Punjab 286 & 329/9 decl. in 72 overs (Naman Dhir 134, Mayank Markande 62 n.o., Gurnoor Brar 41) bt Gujarat 97 & 138 in 35.4 overs (Manan Hingrajia 74 n.o., Baltej Singh 4/38). Punjab 6 (13), Gujarat 0 (14).
Railways 427 bt Jammu & Kashmir 161 & 193 in 62.4 overs (Fazil Rashid 53, Akash Pandey 4/58). Railways 7 (8), Jammu & Kashmir 0 (6).
Madhya Pradesh 309 & 257/5 decl. in 68 overs (Himanshu Mantri 126, Shubham Sharma 55) vs. Vidarbha 160 in 71 overs (Sanjay Raghunath 58, Aditya Sarwate 40, Avesh Khan 7/38) & 13/1 in 5 overs.
Plate: Mizoram 104 & 137 in 53.2 overs (Vanlalhruailuanga 42, Shreevats Goswami 62, Bishworjit Konthoujam 5/55, L. Kishan Singha 4/17) lost to Manipur 277. Manipur 7 (14), Mizoram 0 (7).
Meghalaya 610/6 decl. & 132/3 decl. in 25.2 overs (Raj Biswa 53 n.o., Larry Sangma 51) vs. Arunachal Pradesh 331 in 90.2 overs (Anup Ahlawat 153, Chandan Kumar Singh 62 n.o.) & 12/3 in 7 overs.
Sikkim 157 in 64.5 overs (Lee Yong Lepcha 51, Veer Pratap Singh 5/30) vs. Bihar 139/7 in 35.2 overs (Sakibul Gani 55 batting, Sumit Singh 5/53).

Divya becomes youngest to defend the crown

NATL. WOMEN'S CHESS

Sports Bureau

Ten months after becoming the youngest National women's chess champion, Divya Deshmukh now holds the distinction of being the youngest to retain the premier title.

Less than a month after turning 17, this diminutive Nagpur-girl stood tall again by emerging as a worthy champion following the conquest of the 2016 Asian champion Bhakti Kulkarni in 49 moves for a winning tally of 9.5 points from 11 rounds at Kolhapur.

Nearest challenger Mary Ann Gomes (9) finished with a 66-move win at the expense of Rucha Pujari to take the second spot.

Top seed Vantika Agarwal (8.5) ended up third by proving stronger to veteran Nisha Mohota in 58 moves.

Top three: Two-time champion Divya, centre, poses with runner-up Mary, right, and third-placed Vantika. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Leading results (11th and final round): Divya Deshmukh (Mah) bt Bhakti Kulkarni (Goa), Mary Ann Gomes (Pet) bt Rucha Pujari (Mah); Nisha Mohota (Pet) lost to Vantika Agrawal (Del); Sakshi Chitlange (Mah) bt A. G. Nimmy (7); Vishwa Shah (Mah) lost to Isha Sharma (Kar); Arpita Mukherjee (Ben) drew with V. Varshini (TN); Soumya Swaminathan (Pet) bt Mrittika Mallick (Ben); Dakshita Kumawat (Raj) lost to Srija Seshadri (TN); Femil Chelladurai (TN) lost to Vrushali Deodhar (Mah).

Top-10 standings: 1. Divya (9.5 points), 2. Mary (9), 3. Vantika Agrawal (8.5), 4. Sakshi (8), 5. Isha (8), 6. Bhakti (7.5), 7-8. Soumya, Srija (7.5 each), 9-10. Arpita and Varshini (7.5 each).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Rohan and Hari star in Maharana CC's win

B.C. Rohan (102 n.o.) and Hari Rajiv (93) helped Maharana CC defeat YFA Sports Club in the KSCA Group I, IV Division league here.

The scores: Maharana 292/5 in 50 overs (Hari Rajiv 93, B.C. Rohan 102 n.o., Bhuvan Vishwanth 53, K. Sharan 3/48) bt YFA 227 in 45.1 overs (Samyak Patil 37, Abhijit Garnayak 38, A. Bhaskaran 28, Gaurav Kumar 37, G. Mallikarjuna 26, Abhishek Bopanna 3/66).
Jayanagar United Cricketers 240 in 48.3 overs (Bhaskar 40, Sundar 102, Adithya Rajawaj 30, Appanna 5/42) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 178/9 in 37.2 overs (Abhishek Arun 25, Younus Ali 56, Suhel Semitha 32, Ajendra Suresh 3/29).
City Gymkhana 282/9 in 50 overs (Naveen Kumar 72, Shekar Ramachandran 50, Chandrashekar Shastre 50) bt Indiranagar Cricketers 93 in 29.4 overs (C. Praveen 28, Chandrashekar Shastre 3/35).
City Cricketers (1) 182 in 46.5 overs (Gaurav 25, Rajath Nag 3/38) lost to Palace Orchard 183/5 in 40.1 overs (Aadesh Urs 79, N.G. Vrijesh 35).
Malleswaram United 97 in 19.4 overs (N.M. Shashank 26) lost to Merchants (2) 98/6 in 30 overs (Rahul Kumar 30 n.o., M. Arun 30 n.o., H. Shivraj 3/10, G. Kushan 3/28).

Team Wildboar holds BCYA 'A'

BCYA 'A' was held to a 3-3 draw by Team Wildboar KSHA 'B' division hockey league here.

The results: BCYA 'A' 3 (Laxmikant Kawale 22, S. Pavan 32, Govind Nag 40) bt Team Wildboar 3 (V.P. Poovanna 25, 57, Pemmaiah 34).

Bellary HC 4 (Karthik 5, 29,Chandu 12, Sumanth 22) drew with Sandeep HC 4 (Shreyas 8, 38, T.V. Pratik 32, Sunder 41).

Blitz FC thrashes South India FC

Blitz FC whipped South India FC 5-0 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here.

The results: AGORC FC 0 drew with BTM FC 0; Blitz FC 5 (B.U. Mithun 20, B.H. Pravruth 32, 55, 62, M.P. Ranjan 68) bt South India FC 0.

Kane's brace helps Spurs thrash Crystal Palace

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
LEEDS

Harry Kane helped Tottenham Hotspur thrash Crystal Palace 4-0 in the Premier League on Wednesday, while Nottingham Forest beat Southampton to move out of the relegation zone.

Kane marked his 300th Premier League appearance with a brace of goals in the emphatic 4-0 victory in Spurs' London derby clash at Selhurst Park.

The victory moved fifth-placed Tottenham to within two points of Manchester United in fourth.

On target: Kane celebrates his second goal with Gill. AFP

The results:
Premier League: Aston Villa 1 (Ings 78) dre with Wolves 1 (Podence 12), Crystal Palace 0 lost to Tottenham 4 (Kane 48, 53, Doherty 68, Son 72), Leeds 2 (Gnonto 27, Rodrigo 70) drew with West Ham 2 (Paqueta 45-pen, Scamacca 46), Southampton 0 lost to Nottingham 1 (Awoniyi 27).
Serie A: Cremonese 0 lost to Juventus 1 (Milik 90+1); Udinese 1 (Pereyra 70) drew with Empoli 1 (Baldanzi 3), Fiorentina 1 (Cabral 19) drew with Monza 1 (Carlos Augusto 61), Inter Milan 1 (Dzeko 56) bt Napoli 0, Lecce 2 (Strefezza 57, Colombo 71) bt Lazio 1 (Immobile 14), Roma 1 (Pellegrini 6-pen) bt Bologna 0, Salernitana 1 (Bonazzoli 83) lost to AC Milan 2 (Leao 10, Tonali 15).
Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 64-pen) lost to Sampdoria 2 (Gabbiadini 25, Augello 28), Spezia 2 (Gyasi 8, Nzola 31) drew with Atalanta 2 (Hojlund 77, Pasalic 90+3), Torino 1 (Miranchuk 64) drew with Verona 1 (Djuric 45).

Poland, Greece and 'lucky loser' Italy join USA in semis

UNITED CUP

Agence France-Presse
BRISBANE

Poland and Greece won their city finals on Wednesday to progress to the semifinals of the inaugural United Cup where they will be joined by 'lucky loser' Italy.

Matteo Berrettini edged the Italians ahead in their Brisbane final with a thrilling three-set win over Hubert Hurkacz but it was the Poles who came through to win the tie 3-2.

In the semifinals, Poland will face the US, which saw off Great Britain in Sydney, while the Italians will face off against Greece, which prevailed 3-2 over Croatia in Perth.

The teams travel to Sydney where they will join the US in the semifinals that commence on Friday.

Poland came through their tense battle with the Italians thanks to victory in the deciding mixed doubles, where Iga Swiatek and Hurkacz combined amid rain interruptions to beat Lorenzo Musetti and Camilla Rosatello 6-1, 6-2.

The 20-year-old Musetti, who climbed to 23 in the world in 2022, blasted 17 winners past the 260th-ranked Michalsk to win 6-1, 6-1 in just 57 minutes.

Berrettini, who has slipped out of the top 10 after rising to sixth in the world, later posted a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over World No. 10 Pole Hurkacz.

Potent pair: Swiatek combined with Hurkacz to win the deciding mixed doubles and take Poland into the semifinals. GETTY IMAGES

The Italian women, however, were less successful with Martina Trevisan and Lucia Bronzetti swamped in straight sets by World No. 1 Swiatek and rising star Magda Linette respectively.

In Perth, World No. 6 Maria Sakkari and Stefanos Tsitsipas, ranked fourth in the men's game, combined to defeat Petra Martic and Borna Gojo 7-6(6), 6-4. Croatia's Donna Vekic had started with a defeat of Greek Despina Papamichail, losing just two games. Tsitsipas got one back for Greece, stopping Borna Coric 6-0, 6-7(4), 7-5.

The Croats took a 2-1 lead through Gojo, a 6-4, 6-2 winner against 803rd ranked Stefanos Sakellaridis before Sakkari squared the tie with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Martic.

The results:
In Brisbane: Poland bt Italy 3-2 {Daniel Michalski lost to Lorenzo Musetti 1-6, 1-6; Hubert Hurkacz lost to Matteo Berrettini 4-6, 6-3, 3-6; Iga Swiatek bt Martina Trevisan 6-2, 6-4; Magda Linette bt Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-2; Swiatek & Hurkacz bt Musetti & Camilla Rosatello 6-1, 6-2}.
In Perth: Greece bt Croatia 3-2 {Despina Papamichail lost to Donna Vekic 2-6, 0-6; Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Borna Coric 6-0, 6-7(4), 7-5; Stefanos Sakellaridis lost to Borna Gojo 4-6, 2-6; Maria Sakkari bt Petra Martic 6-3, 6-3; Sakkari & Tsitsipas bt Martic & Gojo 7-6(6), 6-4}.

Telangana girls rally to get the better of Kerala

VOLLEYBALL

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Telangana girls bounced back after losing the first two games to beat Kerala 21-25, 21-25, 25-21, 25-22, 15-6 in the league stage of the ONGC 44th National sub-junior volleyball championship at the Laxmi Public School, Karkardooma, on Thursday.

The results (league):
Boys: Group-A: Delhi bt Kerala 25-14, 25-15, 25-23; Karnataka bt Madhya Pradesh 23-25, 18-25, 25-14, 25-20, 15-8.
Haryana bt Andhra Pradesh 25-23, 25-17, 25-19.
Group-B: Jammu & Kashmir bt Puducherry 25-20, 25-19, 25-21; Gujarat bt Chandigarh 25-22, 25-21, 25-22; Maharashtra bt Jammu & Kashmir 23-25, 19-25, 25-17, 25-23, 15-11.
Group-C: Tamil Nadu bt Bihar 25-21, 25-21, 25-21.
West Bengal bt Jharkhand 22-25, 25-17, 23-25, 25-17, 15-9.
Uttar Pradesh bt Uttarakhand 25-22, 25-18, 17-25, 25-17.
Bihar bt Jharkhand 25-19, 25-21, 25-17; Uttar Pradesh bt West Bengal 25-13, 25-20, 25-11.
Uttarakhand bt Tamil Nadu 25-15, 25-18, 25-20.
Group-D: Punjab bt Telangana 25-20 25-20, 25-22.
Rajasthan bt Manipur 25-20, 25-17, 25-23.
Himachal Pradesh bt Assam 25-20, 25-18, 25-20.
Girls: Group-A: Karnataka bt Madhya Pradesh 25-14, 25-8, 25-4.
West Bengal bt Delhi 25-18, 25-14, 25-9.
Group-B: Uttar Pradesh bt Assam 25-19, 25-14, 25-11.
Rajasthan bt Bihar 25-3, 25-8, 25-11.
Maharashtra bt Punjab 25-10, 25-11, 25-11; Uttar Pradesh bt Punjab 25-15, 25-10, 25-6; Assam bt Bihar 25-5, 25-12, 25-15.
Rajasthan bt Maharashtra 25-18, 30-28, 25-10.
Group-C: Haryana bt Himachal Pradesh 25-17, 25-19, 25-7; Gujarat bt Jharkhand 25-19, 25-15, 25-12.
Group-D: Puducherry bt Jammu & Kashmir 25-21, 25-17, 25-15; Uttarakhand bt Tamil Nadu 25-5, 25-8, 25-2; Telangana bt Kerala 21-25, 21-25, 25-21, 25-22, 15-6.